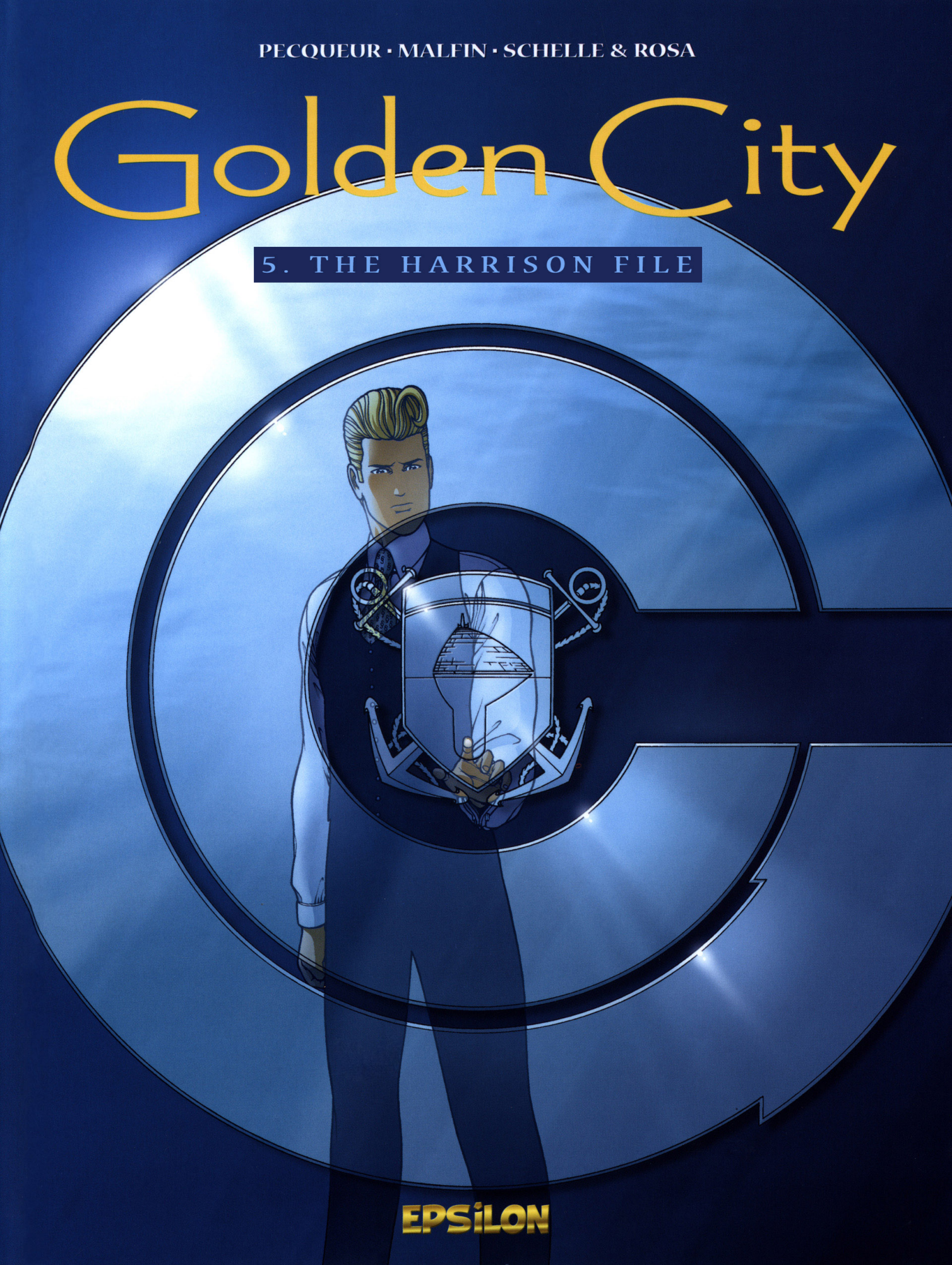
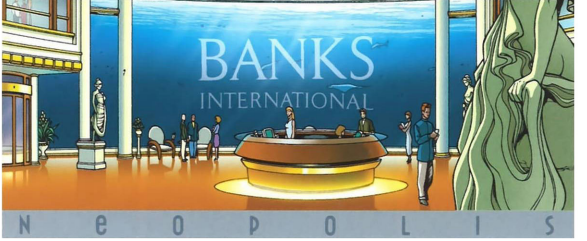
PECQUEUR · MALFIN · SCHELLE & ROSA

Golden City

5. THE HARRISON FILE



EPSILON



Golden City

5. THE HARRISON FILE

Story
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Art
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Colors
Pierre SCHELLE & Stéphane ROSA

Translation
ALICE

DELCOURT

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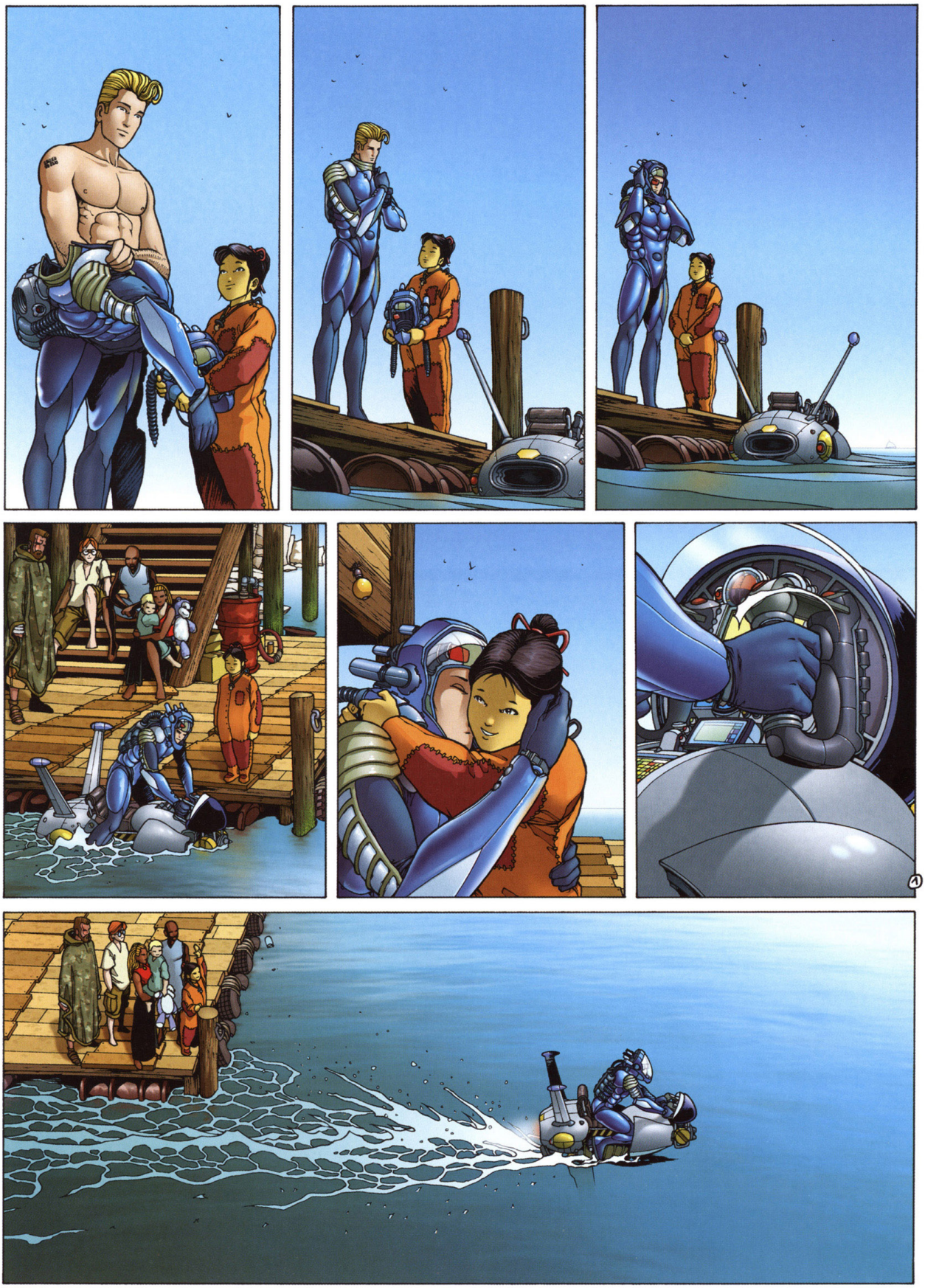
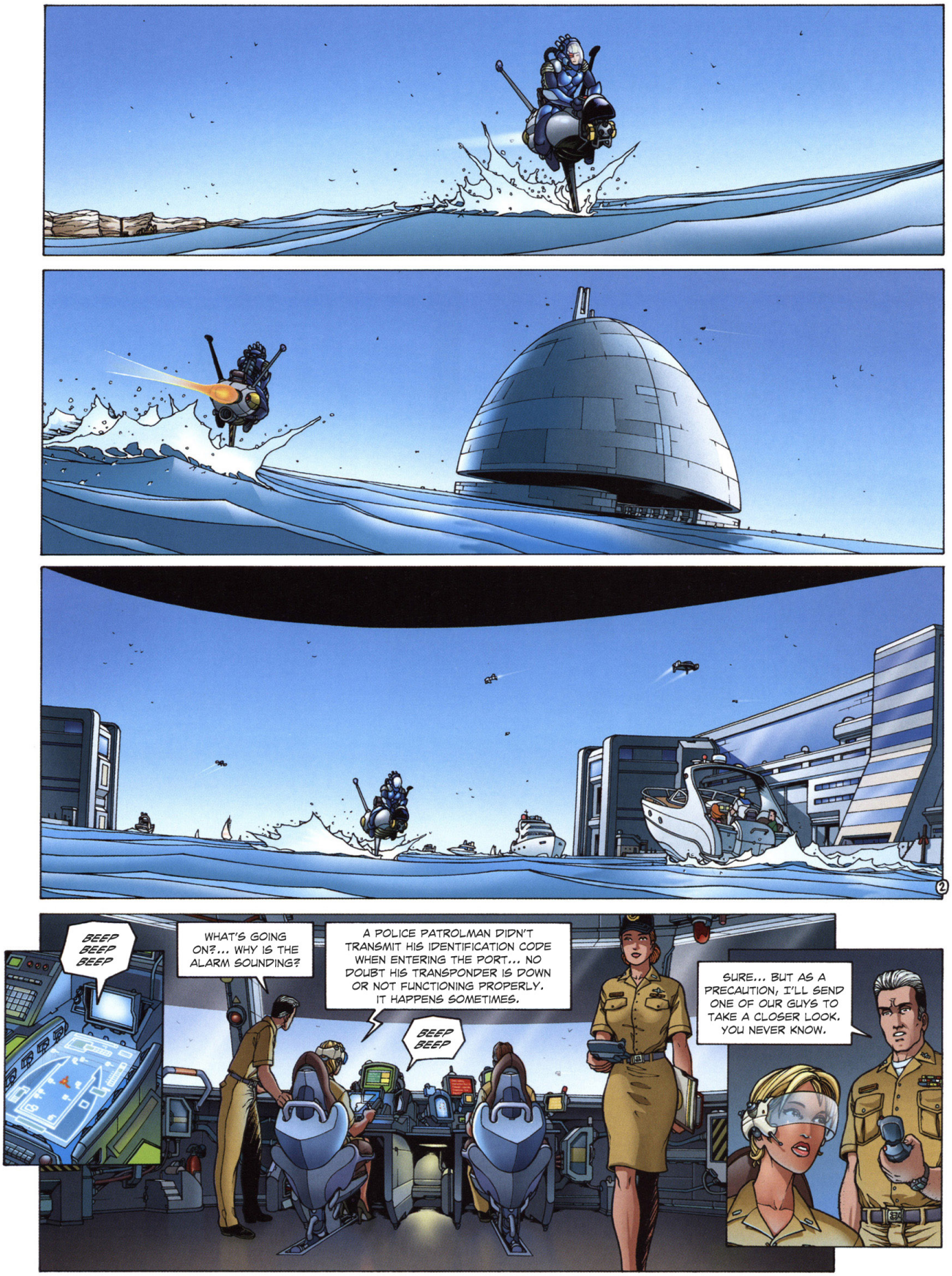
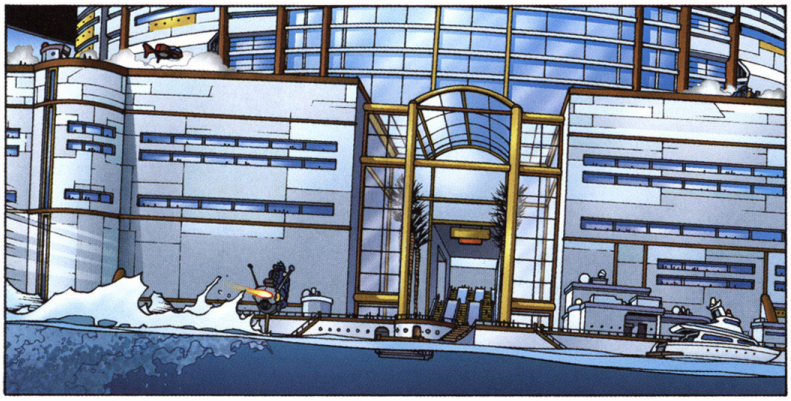
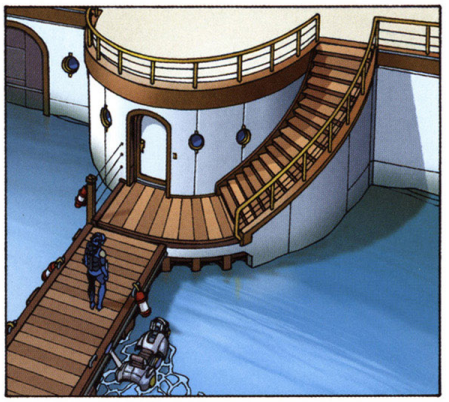
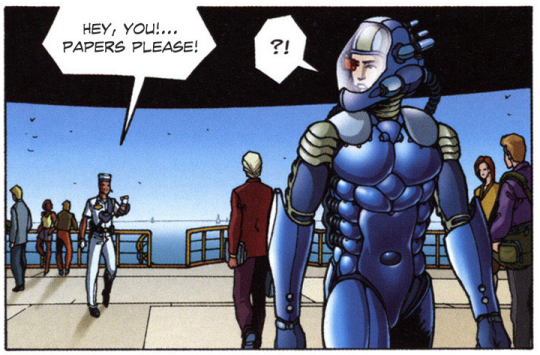


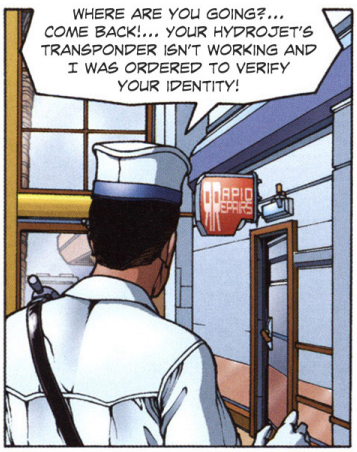

BEEP BEEP BEEP
WHAT'S GOING ON?... WHY IS THE ALARM SOUNDING?
A POLICE PATROLMAN DIDN'T TRANSMIT HIS IDENTIFICATION CODE WHEN ENTERING THE PORT... NO DOUBT HIS TRANSPONDER IS DOWN OR NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. IT HAPPENS SOMETIMES.
BEEP BEEP
SURE... BUT AS A PRECAUTION, I'LL SEND ONE OF OUR GUYS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. YOU NEVER KNOW.

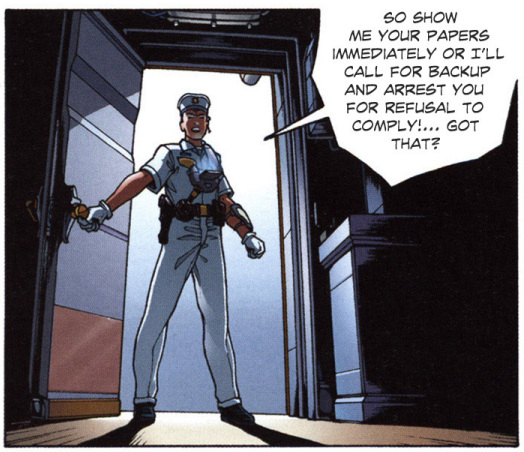


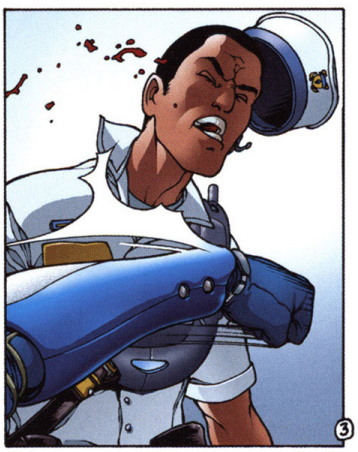


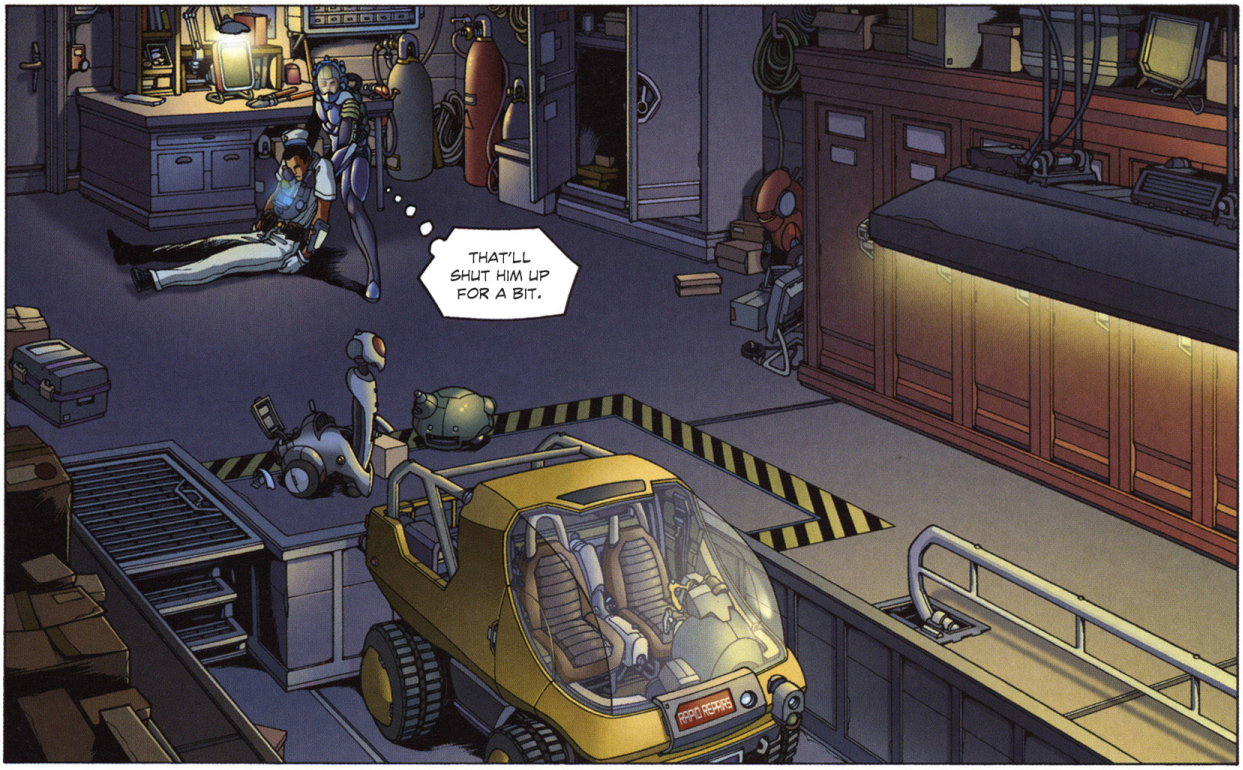

HEY, YOU!... PAPERS PLEASE!
?!

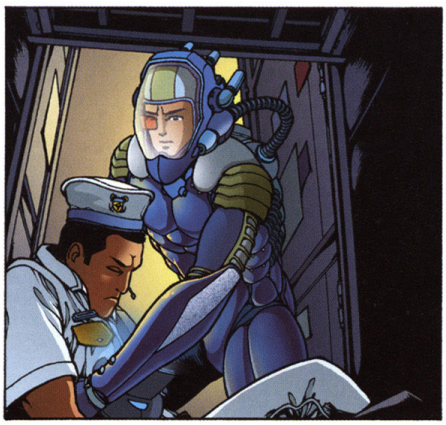
EPAIRS

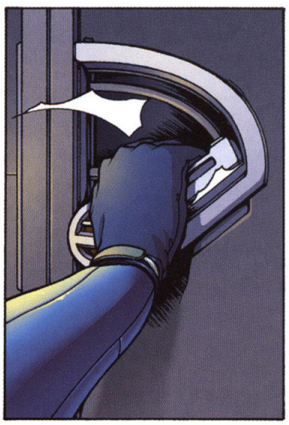

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?... COME BACK!... YOUR HYDROJET'S TRANSPONDER ISN'T WORKING AND I WAS ORDERED TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY!
RAPID EPAIRS

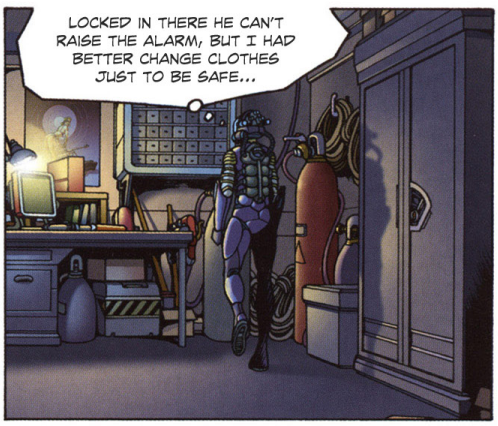

SO SHOW ME YOUR PAPERS IMMEDIATELY OR I'LL CALL FOR BACKUP AND ARREST YOU FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY!... GOT THAT?

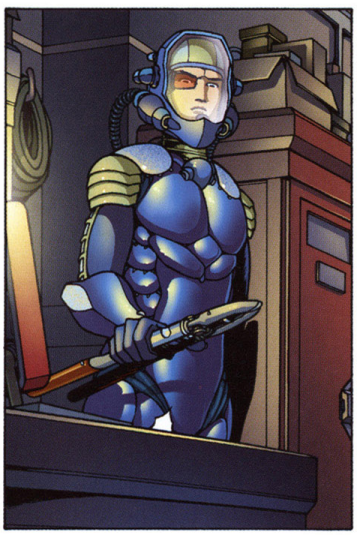


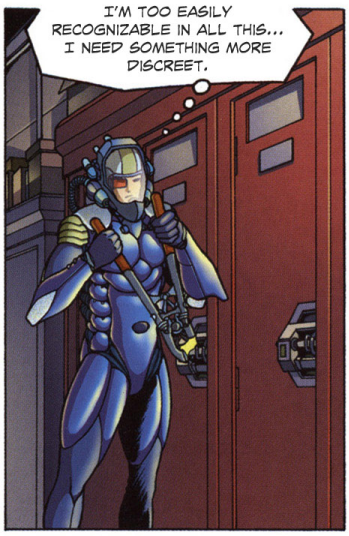

THAT'LL SHUT HIM UP FOR A BIT.



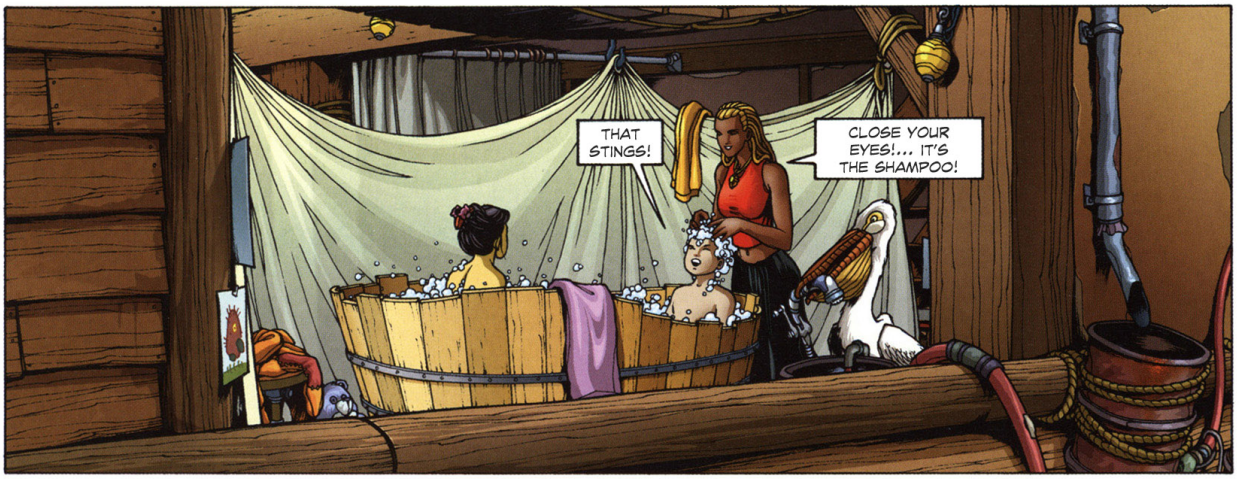


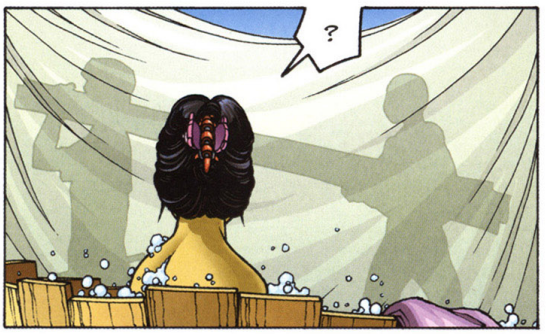

LOCKED IN THERE HE CAN'T RAISE THE ALARM, BUT I HAD BETTER CHANGE CLOTHES JUST TO BE SAFE...



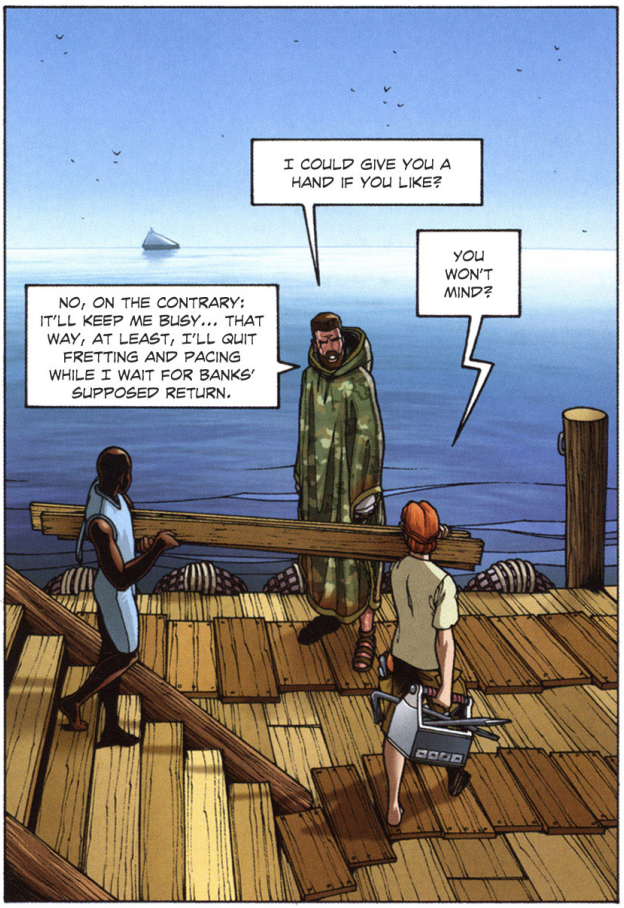

I'M TOO EASILY RECOGNIZABLE IN ALL THIS... I NEED SOMETHING MORE DISCREET.

PERFECT!... THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK IF IT'S IN MY SIZE!


THAT STINGS!
CLOSE YOUR EYES!... IT'S THE SHAMPOO!

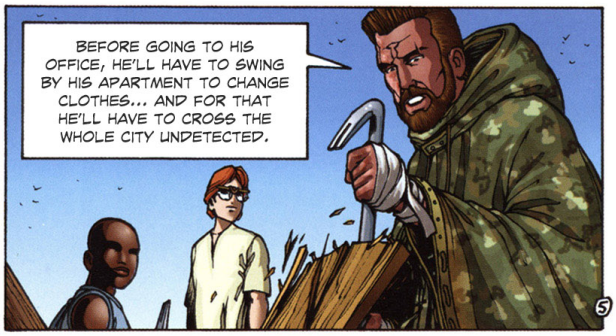

?

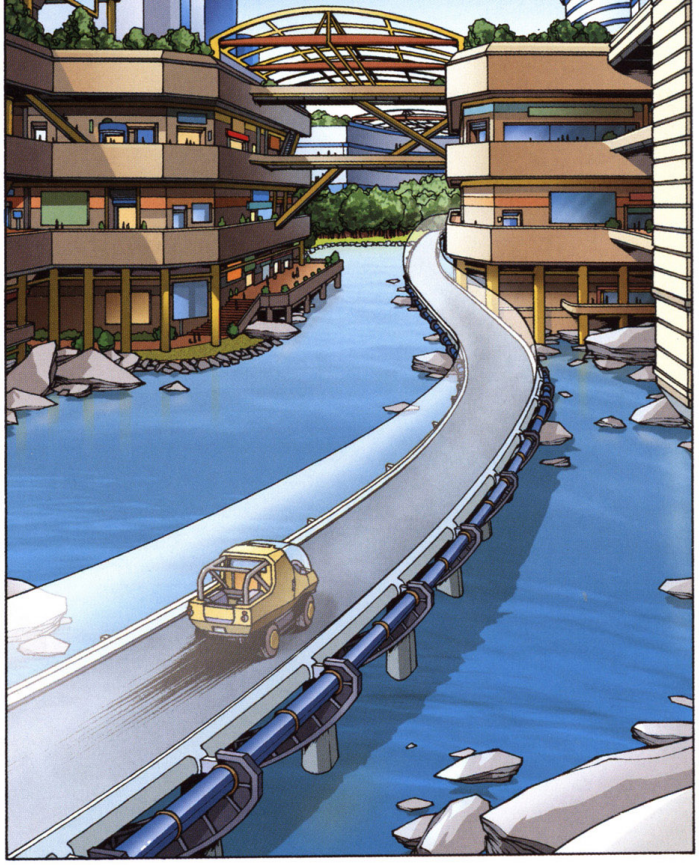
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FIX THE DOCK.

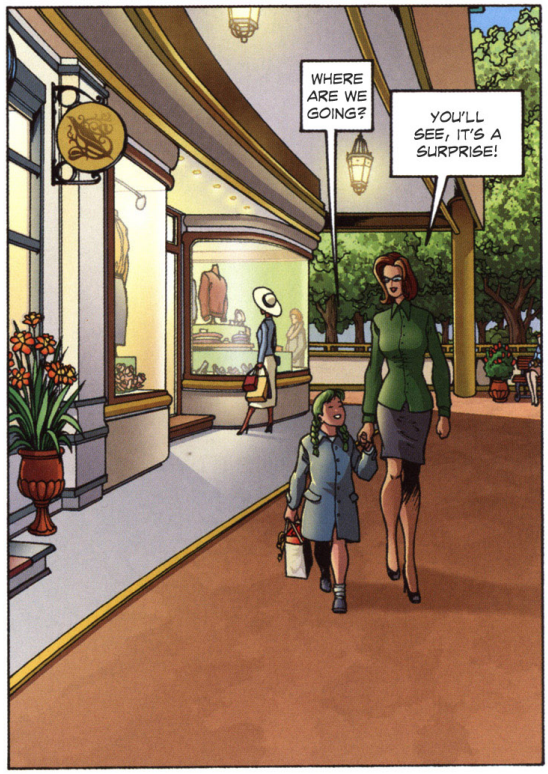

I COULD GIVE YOU A HAND IF YOU LIKE?
YOU WON'T MIND?
NO, ON THE CONTRARY: IT'LL KEEP ME BUSY... THAT WAY, AT LEAST, I'LL QUIT FRETTING AND PACING WHILE I WAIT FOR BANKS' SUPPOSED RETURN.

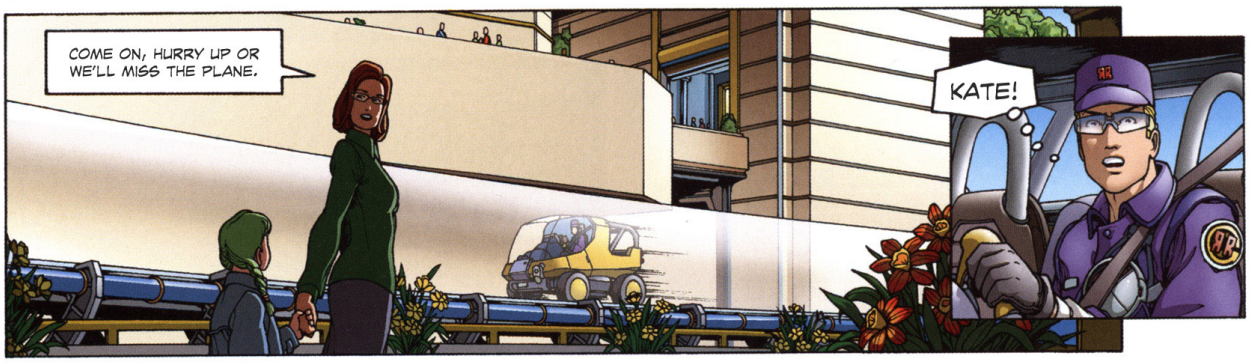
WHY "SUPPOSED"?
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK HARRISON STANDS A CHANCE IN HELL, AND I DOUBT I'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

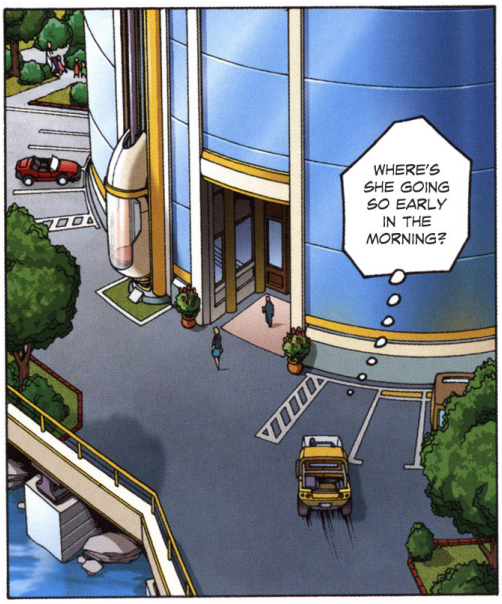
DON'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC!... IF ALL WENT AS PLANNED, HE SHOULD BE IN GOLDEN CITY BY NOW.
YEAH, BUT THE HARD PART IS YET TO COME.

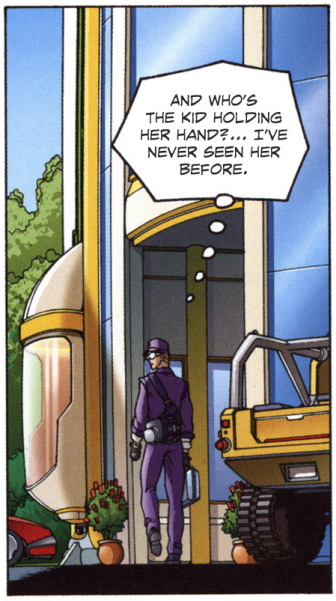

BEFORE GOING TO HIS OFFICE, HE'LL HAVE TO SWING BY HIS APARTMENT TO CHANGE CLOTHES... AND FOR THAT HE'LL HAVE TO CROSS THE WHOLE CITY UNDETECTED.

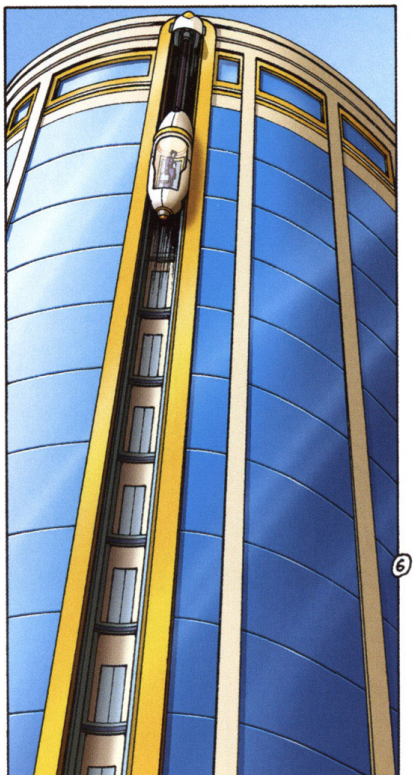


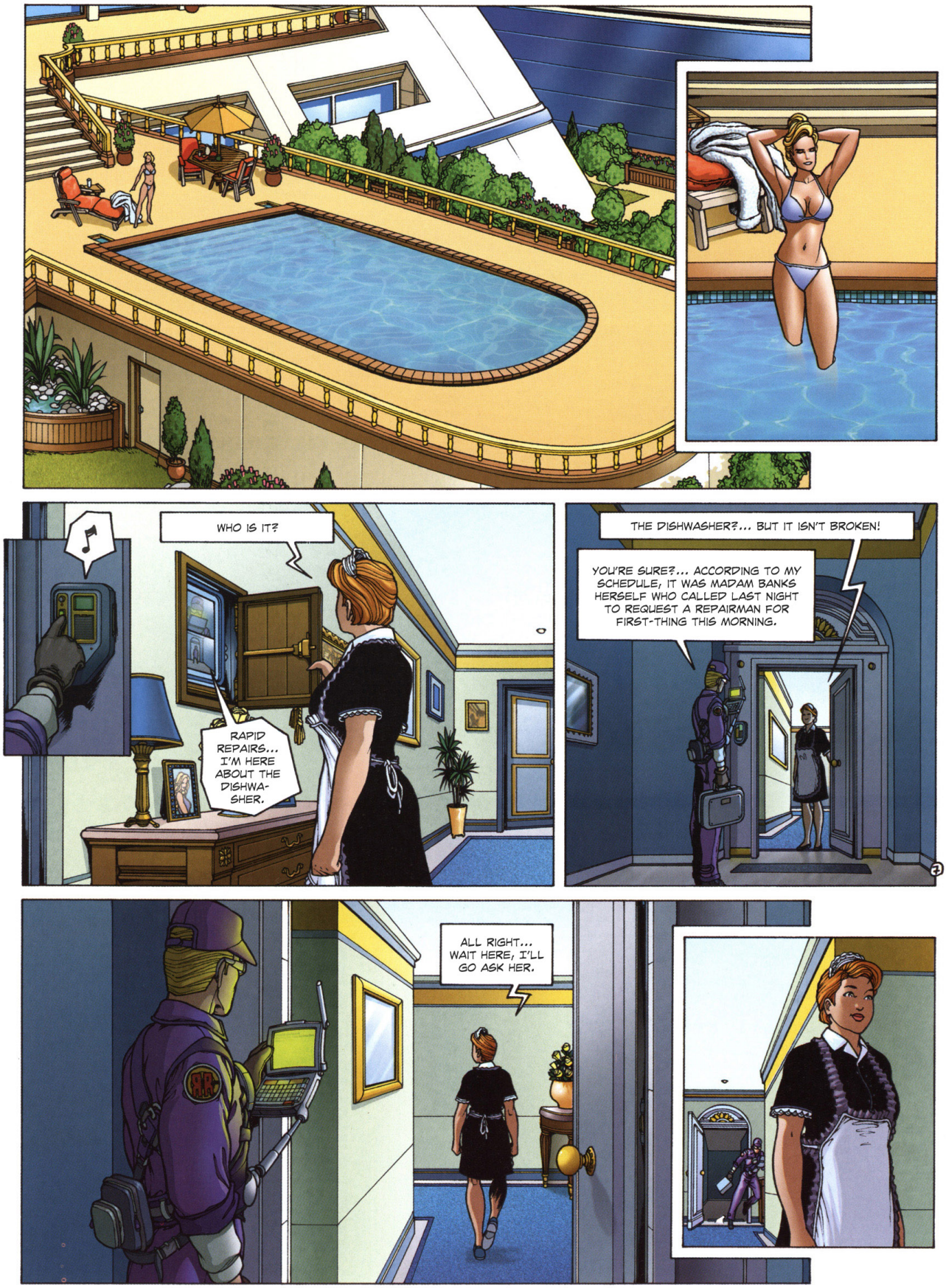

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
YOU'LL SEE, IT'S A SURPRISE!

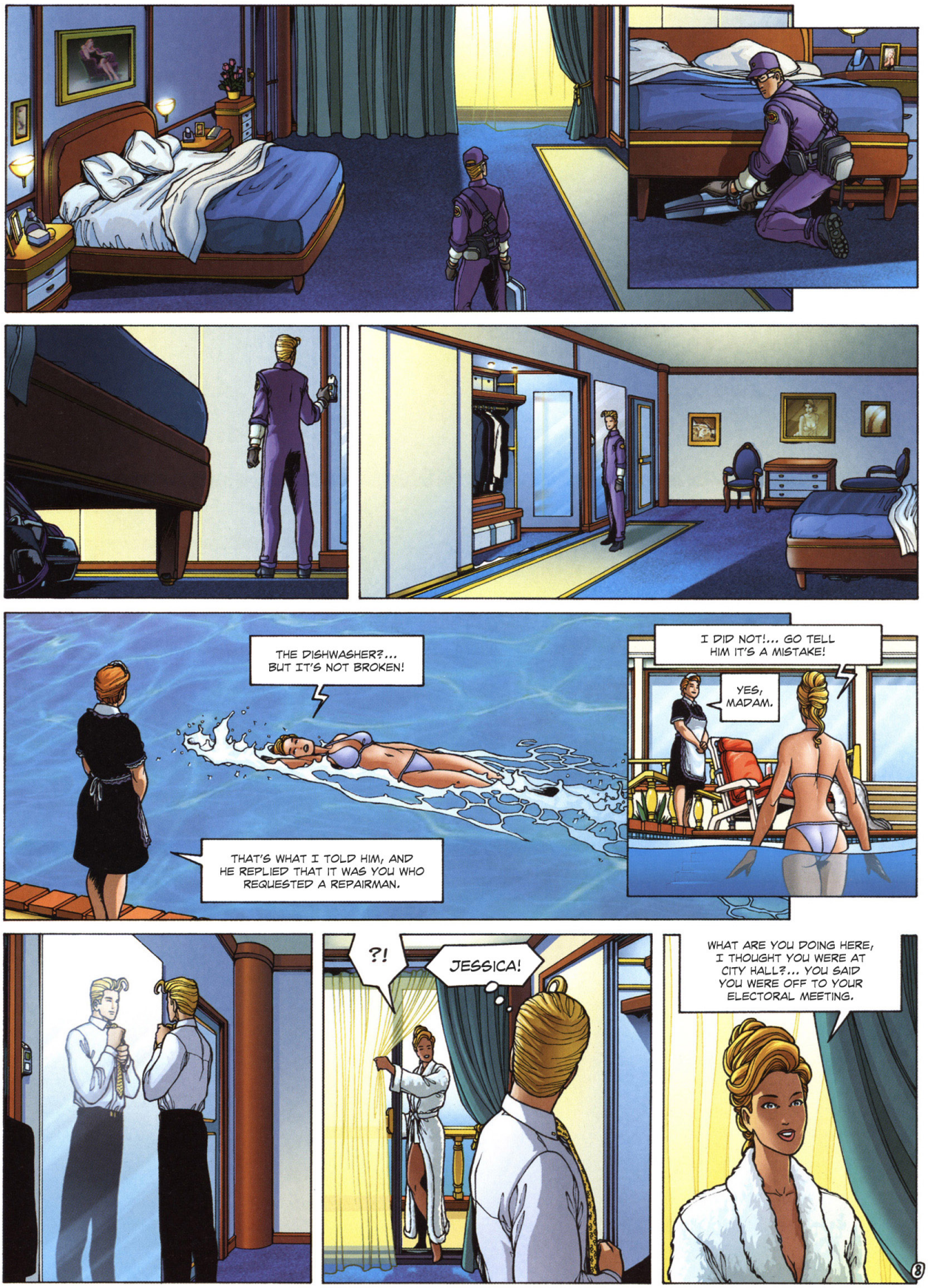

COME ON, HURRY UP OR WE'LL MISS THE PLANE.
KATE!

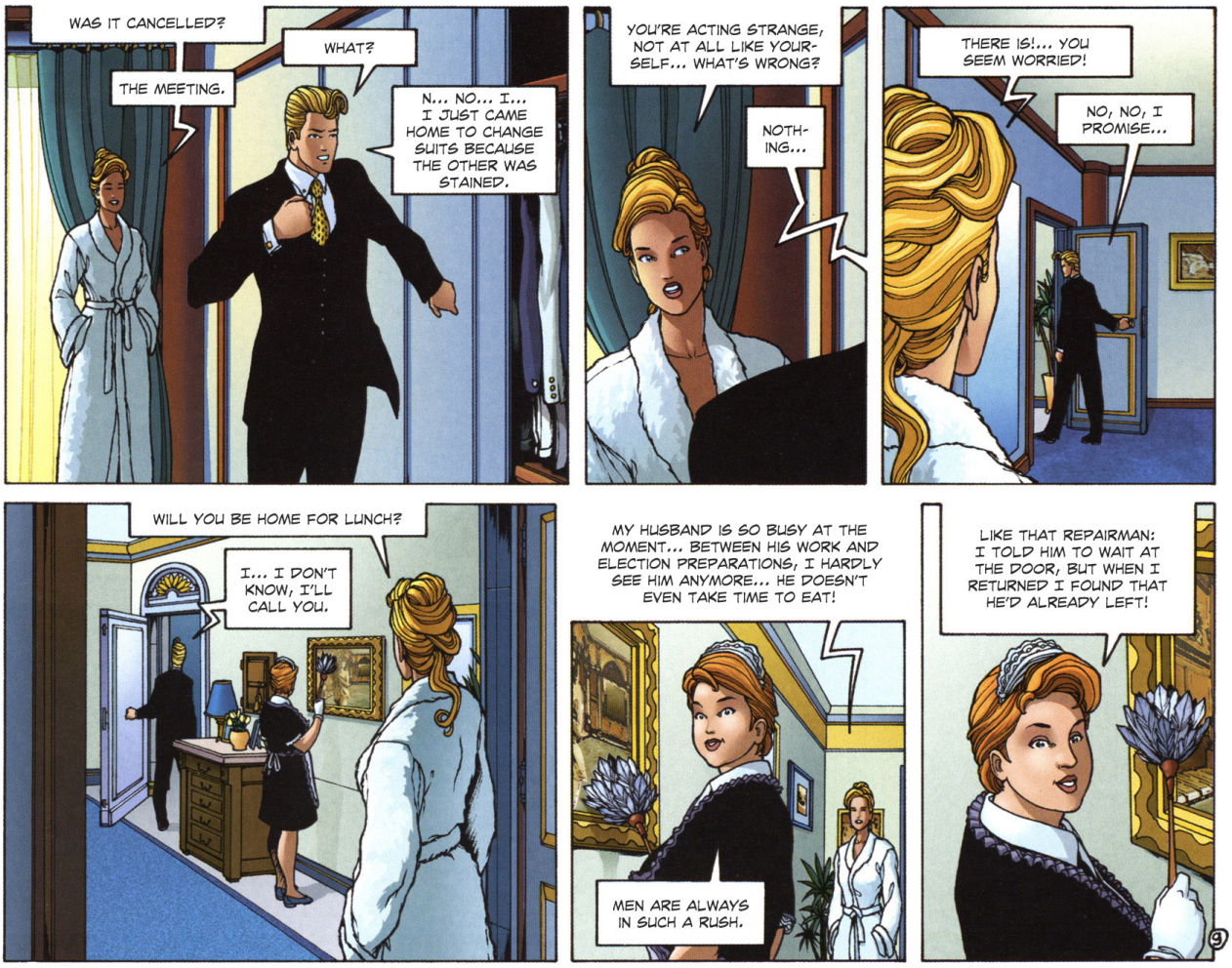

WHERE'S SHE GOING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

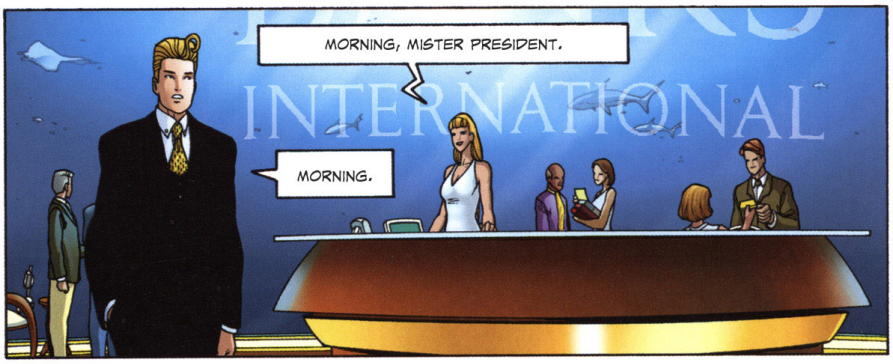

AND WHO'S THE KID HOLDING HER HAND?... I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE.

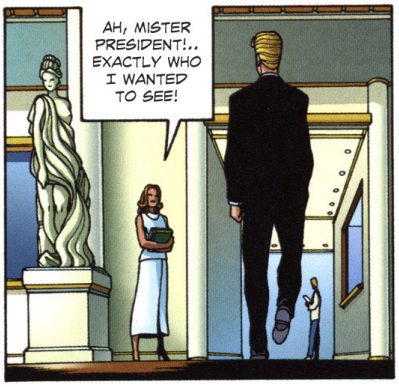


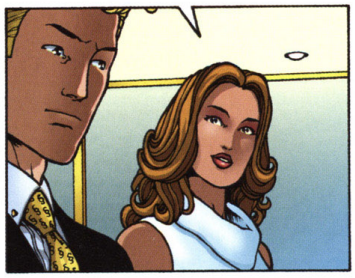

WHO IS IT?
RAPID REPAIRS... I'M HERE ABOUT THE DISHWA-SHER.
THE DISHWASHER?... BUT IT ISN'T BROKEN!
YOU'RE SURE?... ACCORDING TO MY SCHEDULE, IT WAS MADAM BANKS HERSELF WHO CALLED LAST NIGHT TO REQUEST A REPAIRMAN FOR FIRST-THING THIS MORNING.
ALL RIGHT... WAIT HERE, I'LL GO ASK HER.

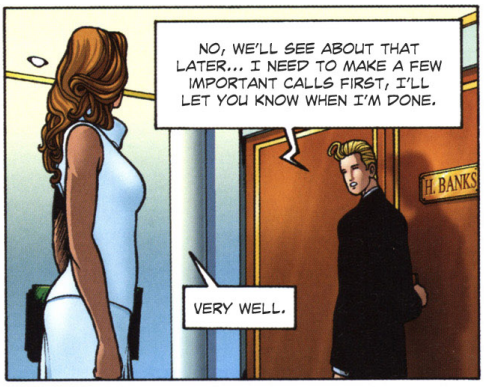

THE DISHWASHER?... BUT IT'S NOT BROKEN!
I DID NOT!... GO TELL HIM IT'S A MISTAKE!
YES, MADAM.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HIM, AND HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS YOU WHO REQUESTED A REPAIRMAN.
?!
JESSICA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT CITY HALL?... YOU SAID YOU WERE OFF TO YOUR ELECTORAL MEETING.

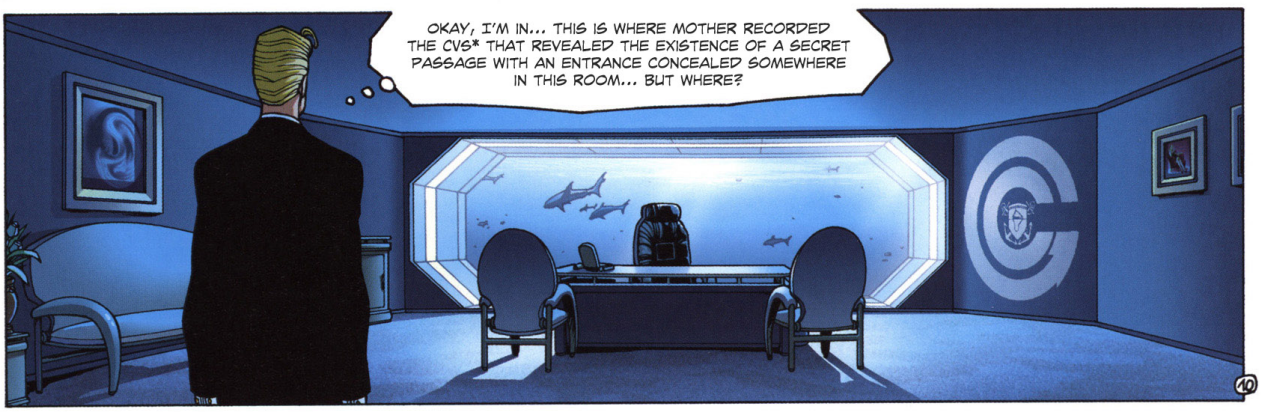

WAS IT CANCELLED?
THE MEETING.
WHAT?
N... NO... I... I JUST CAME HOME TO CHANGE SUITS BECAUSE THE OTHER WAS STAINED.
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE, NOT AT ALL LIKE YOURSELF... WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING...
THERE IS!... YOU SEEM WORRIED!
NO, NO, I PROMISE...
WILL YOU BE HOME FOR LUNCH?
I... I DON'T KNOW, I'LL CALL YOU.
MY HUSBAND IS SO BUSY AT THE MOMENT... BETWEEN HIS WORK AND ELECTION PREPARATIONS, I HARDLY SEE HIM ANYMORE... HE DOESN'T EVEN TAKE TIME TO EAT!
MEN ARE ALWAYS IN SUCH A RUSH.
LIKE THAT REPAIRMAN: I TOLD HIM TO WAIT AT THE DOOR, BUT WHEN I RETURNED I FOUND THAT HE'D ALREADY LEFT!
9
JESSICA... SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER... I THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD, BUT HERE SHE IS LIVING WITH MY DOUBLE...THE BASTARD TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME: MY IDENTITY, MY JOB, AND EVEN MY WIFE!... BUT IS SHE IGNORANT OF THE CONSPIRACY, OR HIS ACCOMPLICE?
IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO HER, HE'S IN A MEETING AT CITY HALL. NO RISK, THEN, OF RUNNING INTO HIM AT THE OFFICE.







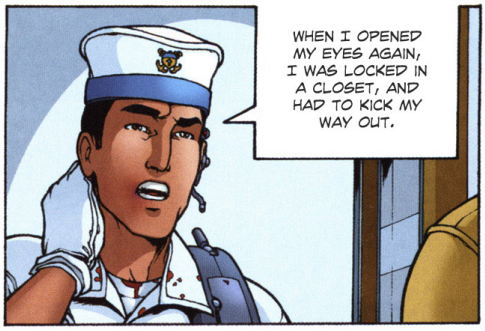


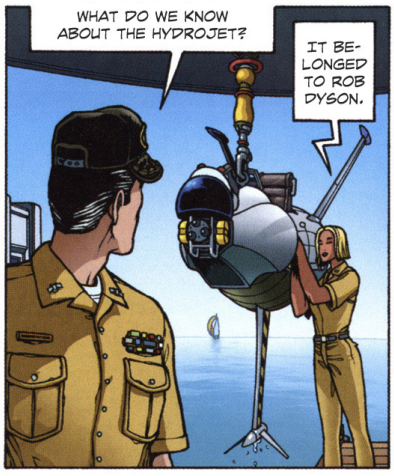

OKAY, I'M IN... THIS IS WHERE MOTHER RECORDED THE CVS* THAT REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF A SECRET PASSAGE WITH AN ENTRANCE CONCEALED SOMEWHERE IN THIS ROOM... BUT WHERE?

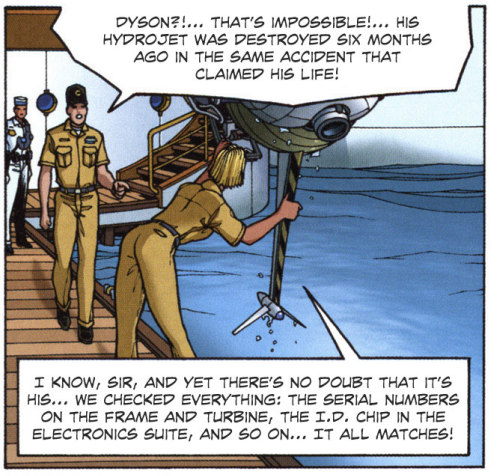
* COMPACT VISUAL STORAGE (CVS).

CAN YOU DESCRIBE HIM?... DID YOU SEE HIS FACE?
NO, SIR... HE KEPT HIS HELMET ON.

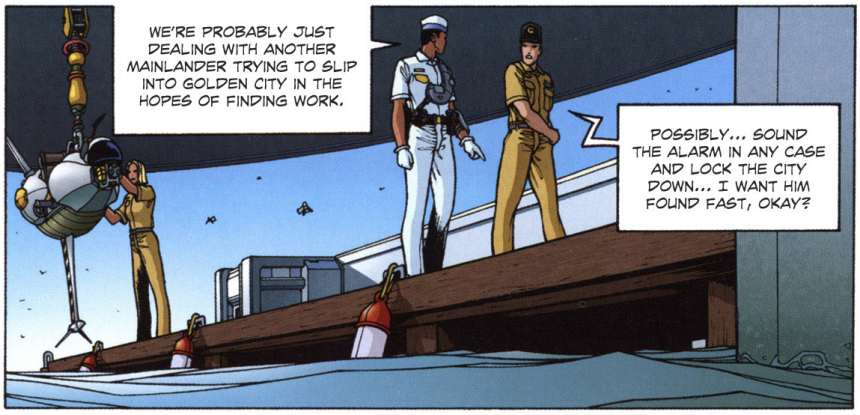
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING, HOWEVER SMALL, THAT COULD HELP US IDENTIFY HIM?
NOT REALLY... IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST... ALL I REMEMBER IS GETTING KNOCKED OUT WITH A SOLID HOOK TO THE CHIN.


WHEN I OPENED MY EYES AGAIN, I WAS LOCKED IN A CLOSET, AND HAD TO KICK MY WAY OUT.

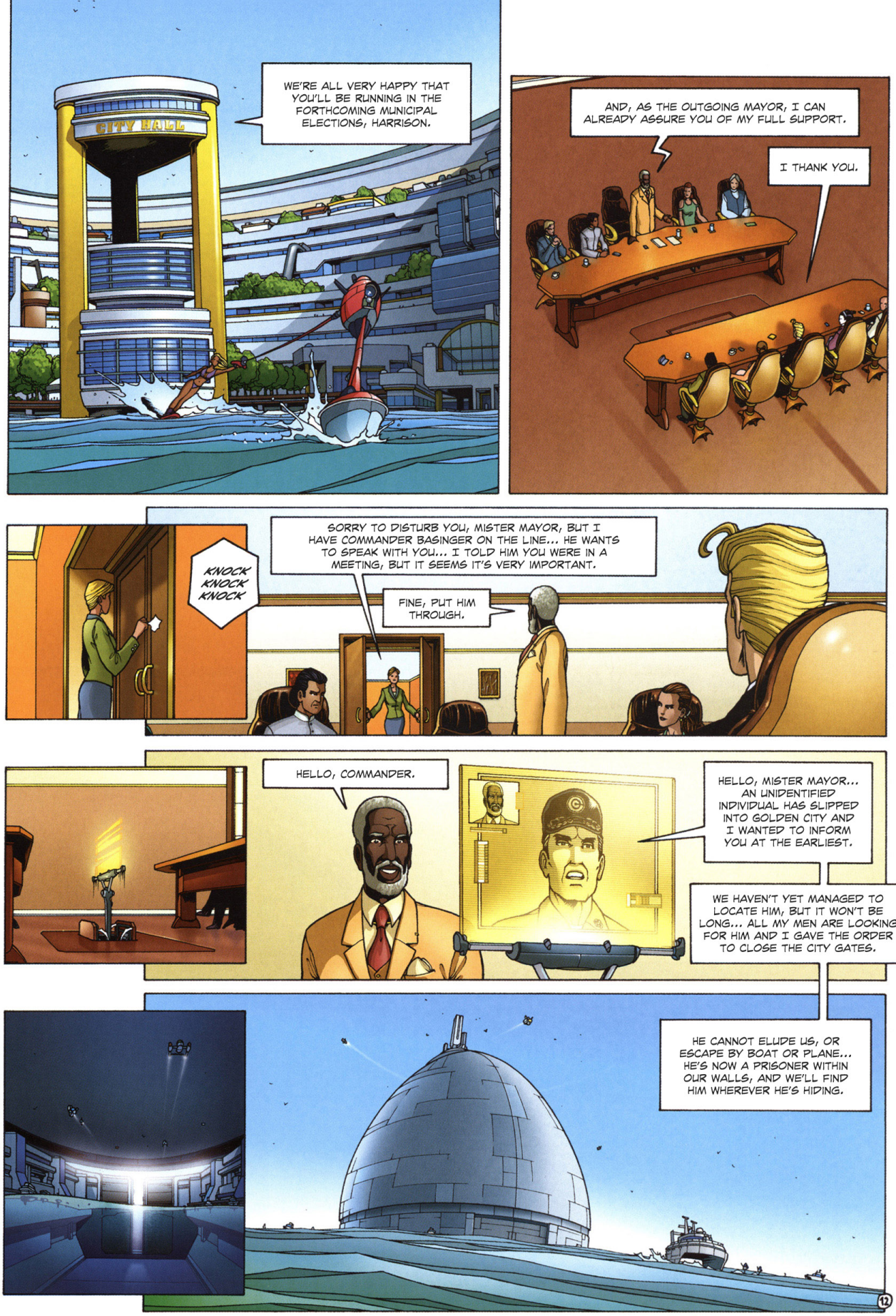

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE HYDROJET?
IT BE-LONGED TO ROB DYSON.

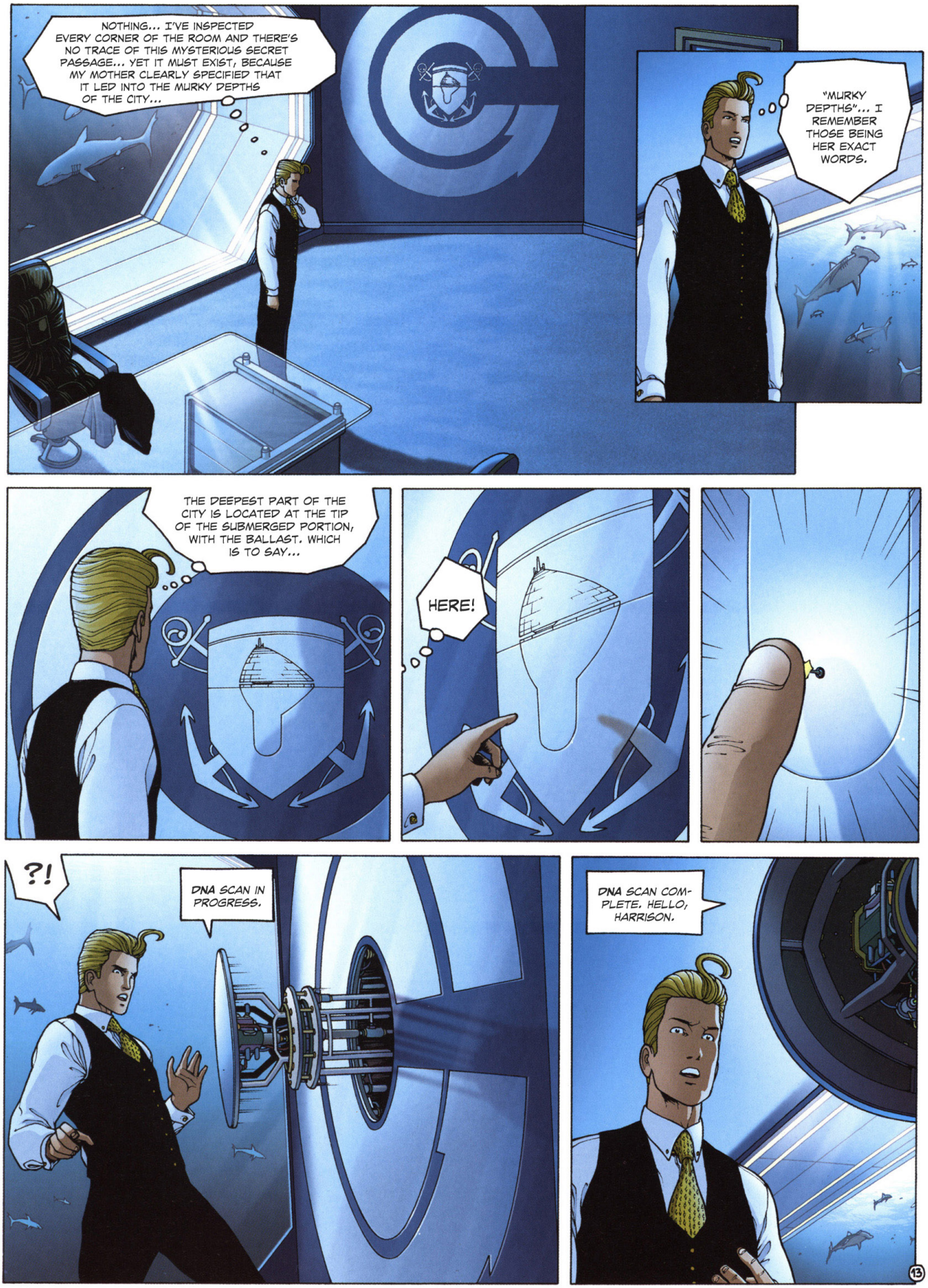

DYSON?!... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!... HIS HYDROJET WAS DESTROYED SIX MONTHS AGO IN THE SAME ACCIDENT THAT CLAIMED HIS LIFE!
I KNOW, SIR, AND YET THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT IT'S HIS... WE CHECKED EVERYTHING: THE SERIAL NUMBERS ON THE FRAME AND TURBINE, THE I.D. CHIP IN THE ELECTRONICS SUITE, AND SO ON... IT ALL MATCHES!

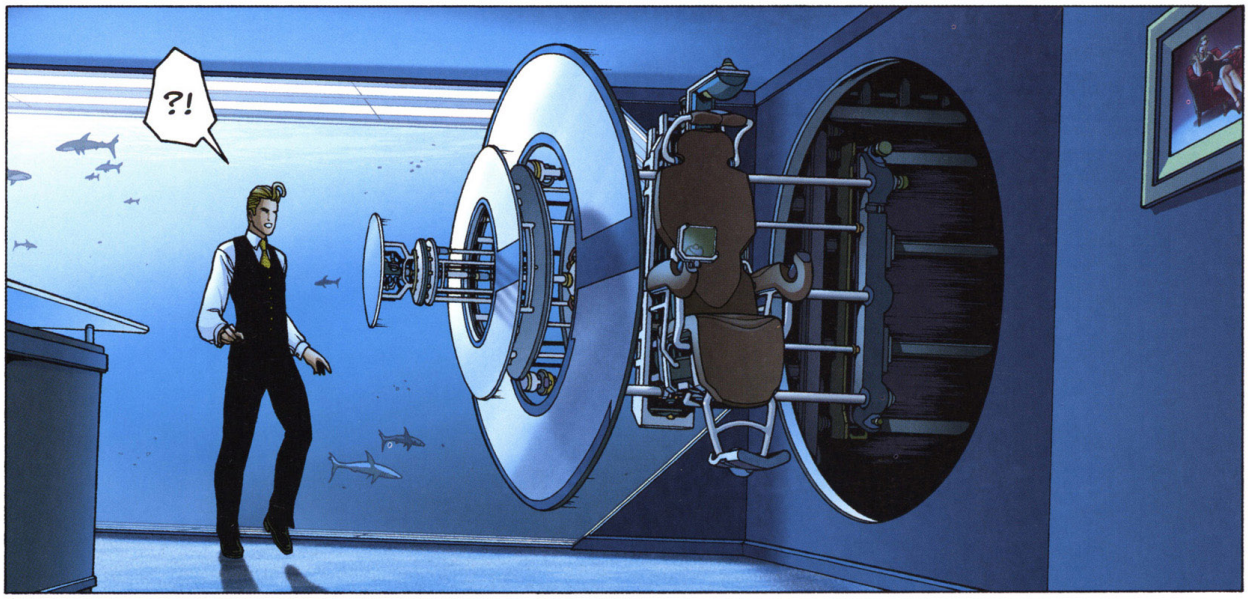
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT HAS BEEN RECENTLY REPAIRED... IT'S THE WORK OF A PRO, YOU CAN JUST MAKE OUT THE WELD SEAMS.


WE'RE PROBABLY JUST DEALING WITH ANOTHER MAINLANDER TRYING TO SLIP INTO GOLDEN CITY IN THE HOPES OF FINDING WORK.
POSSIBLY... SOUND THE ALARM IN ANY CASE AND LOCK THE CITY DOWN... I WANT HIM FOUND FAST, OKAY?

HELLO?... CITY HALL?... THIS IS COMMANDER BASINGER, GET ME THE MAYOR PLEASE.


CITY HALL
WE'RE ALL VERY HAPPY THAT YOU'LL BE RUNNING IN THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, HARRISON.
AND, AS THE OUTGOING MAYOR, I CAN ALREADY ASSURE YOU OF MY FULL SUPPORT.
I THANK YOU.
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, MISTER MAYOR, BUT I HAVE COMMANDER BASINGER ON THE LINE... HE WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU... I TOLD HIM YOU WERE IN A MEETING, BUT IT SEEMS IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
FINE, PUT HIM THROUGH.
HELLO, COMMANDER.
HELLO, MISTER MAYOR... AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL HAS SLIPPED INTO GOLDEN CITY AND I WANTED TO INFORM YOU AT THE EARLIEST.
WE HAVEN'T YET MANAGED TO LOCATE HIM, BUT IT WON'T BE LONG... ALL MY MEN ARE LOOKING FOR HIM AND I GAVE THE ORDER TO CLOSE THE CITY GATES.
HE CANNOT ELUDE US, OR ESCAPE BY BOAT OR PLANE... HE'S NOW A PRISONER WITHIN OUR WALLS, AND WE'LL FIND HIM WHEREVER HE'S HIDING.


NOTHING... I'VE INSPECTED EVERY CORNER OF THE ROOM AND THERE'S NO TRACE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS SECRET PASSAGE... YET IT MUST EXIST, BECAUSE MY MOTHER CLEARLY SPECIFIED THAT IT LED INTO THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE CITY...
"MURKY DEPTHS"... I REMEMBER THOSE BEING HER EXACT WORDS.
THE DEEPEST PART OF THE CITY IS LOCATED AT THE TIP OF THE SUBMERGED PORTION, WITH THE BALLAST. WHICH IS TO SAY...
HERE!
?!
DNA SCAN IN PROGRESS.
DNA SCAN COMPLETE. HELLO, HARRISON.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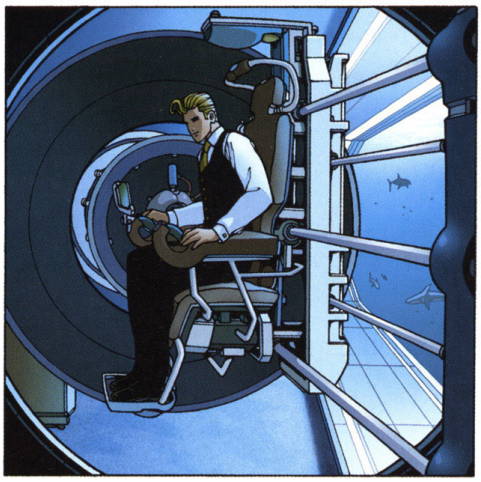
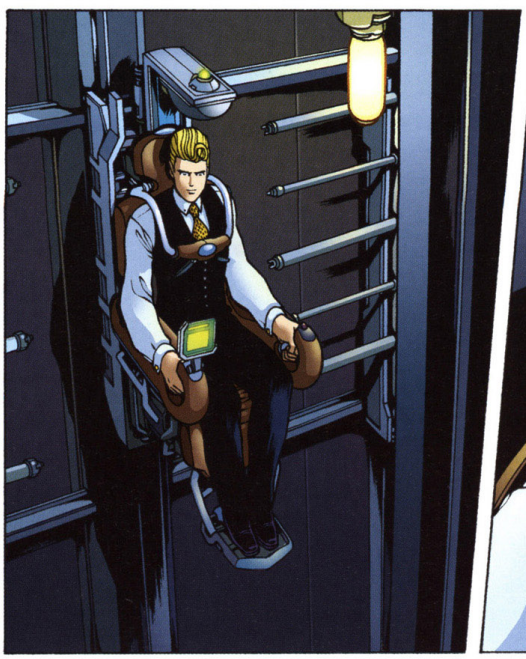
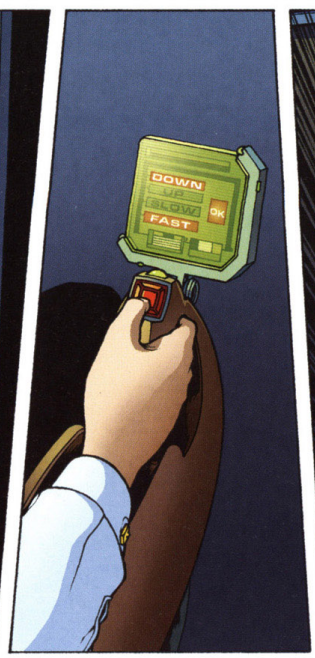
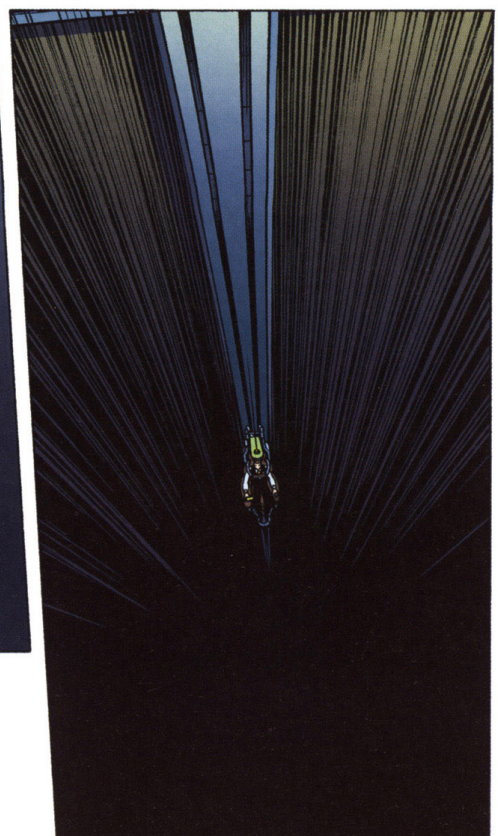





DOWN
FAST
OK

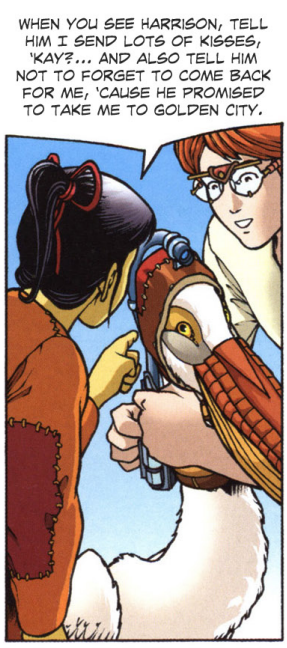


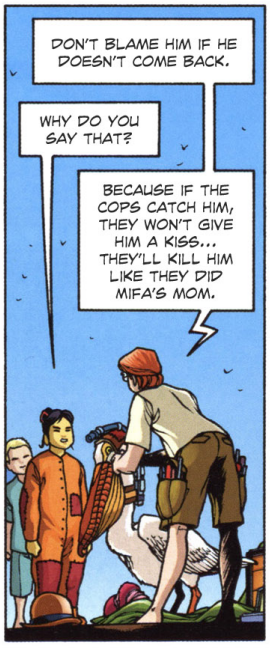
THAT'S STRANGE!
WHAT IS?
THEY CLOSED THE GOLDEN CITY GATES!

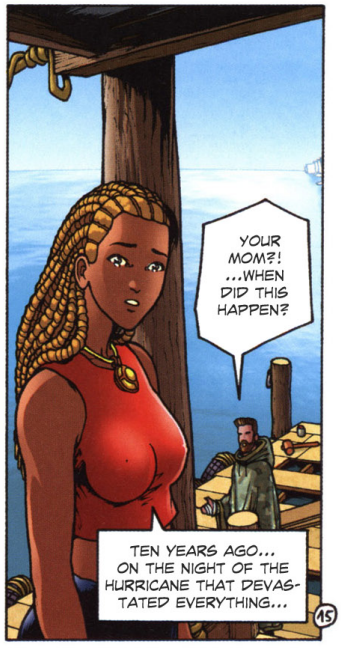
SHIT!... THAT'S A BAD SIGN!
WHY?
THEY'RE ONLY CLOSED IN CASES OF EMERGENCY... LIKE WHEN THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

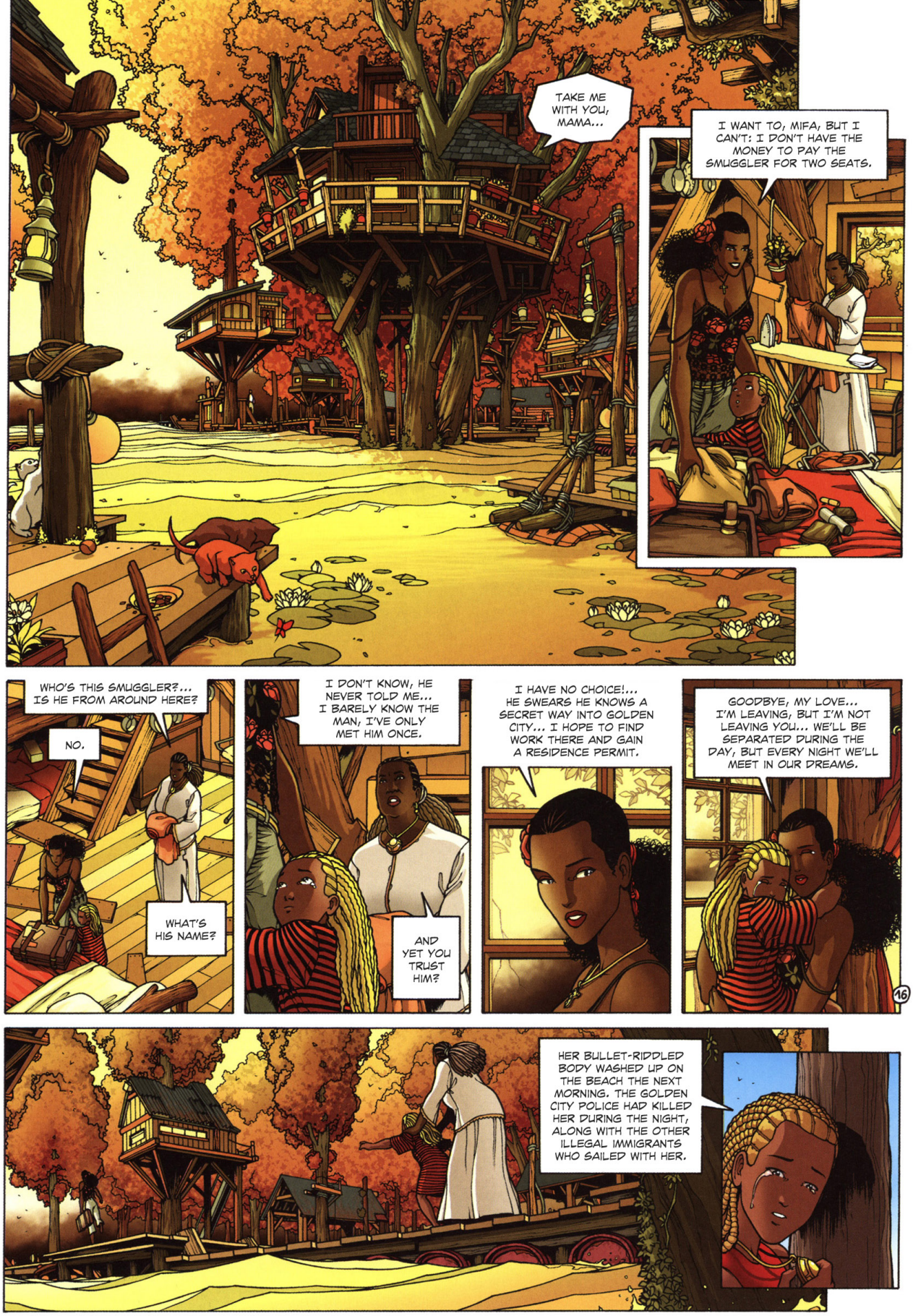
THEY'RE LOOKIN' FOR HARRISON?
PROBABLY.
NOT NECESSARILY ...IT COULD JUST BE A COINCIDENCE.
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

NIKOS IS THE WORLD'S BEST SPY!... I'LL MOUNT HIS CAMERA AND SEND HIM TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

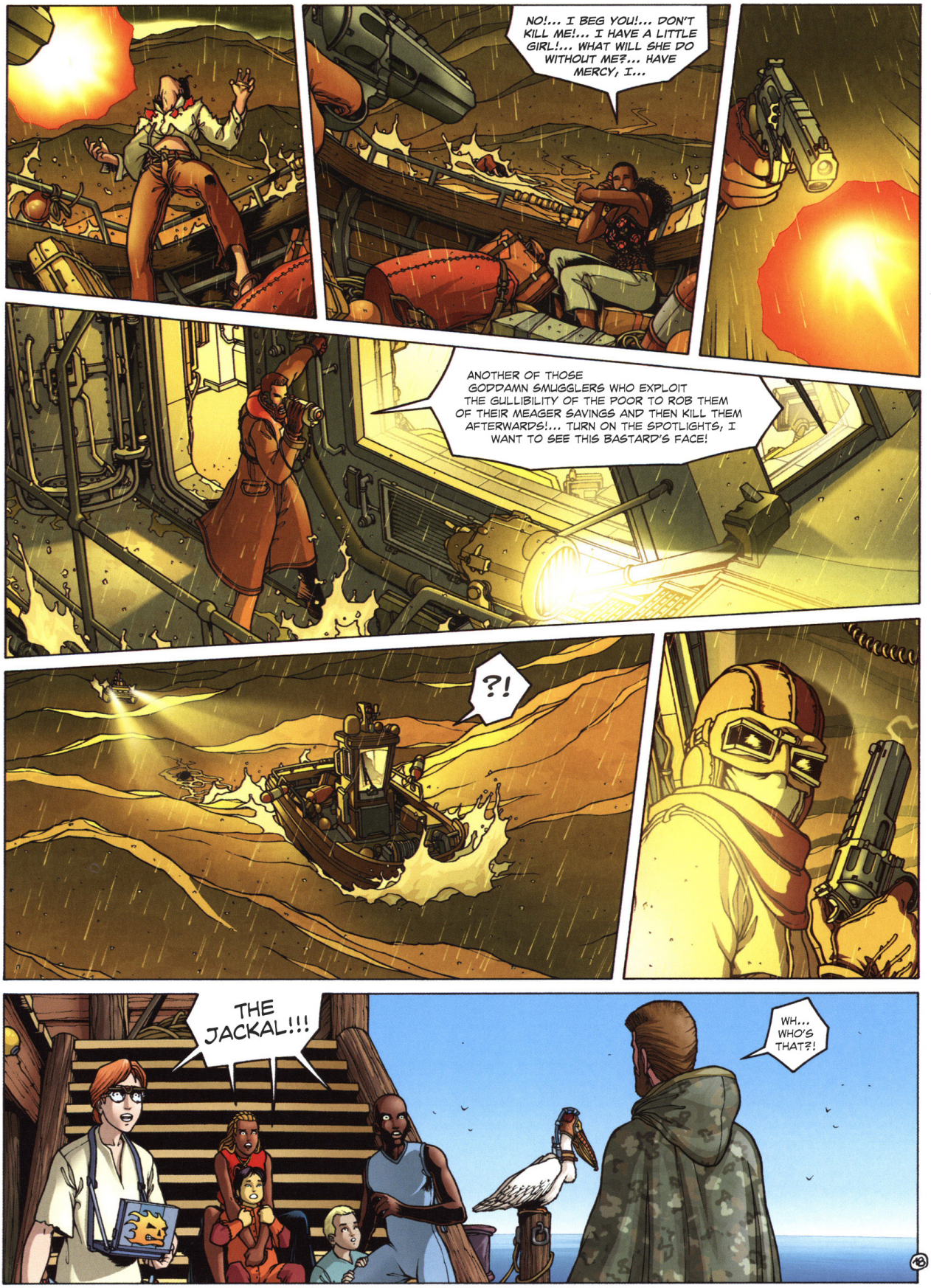

WHEN YOU SEE HARRISON, TELL HIM I SEND LOTS OF KISSES, 'KAY?... AND ALSO TELL HIM NOT TO FORGET TO COME BACK FOR ME, 'CAUSE HE PROMISED TO TAKE ME TO GOLDEN CITY.


DON'T BLAME HIM IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE IF THE COPS CATCH HIM, THEY WON'T GIVE HIM A KISS... THEY'LL KILL HIM LIKE THEY DID MIFA'S MOM.

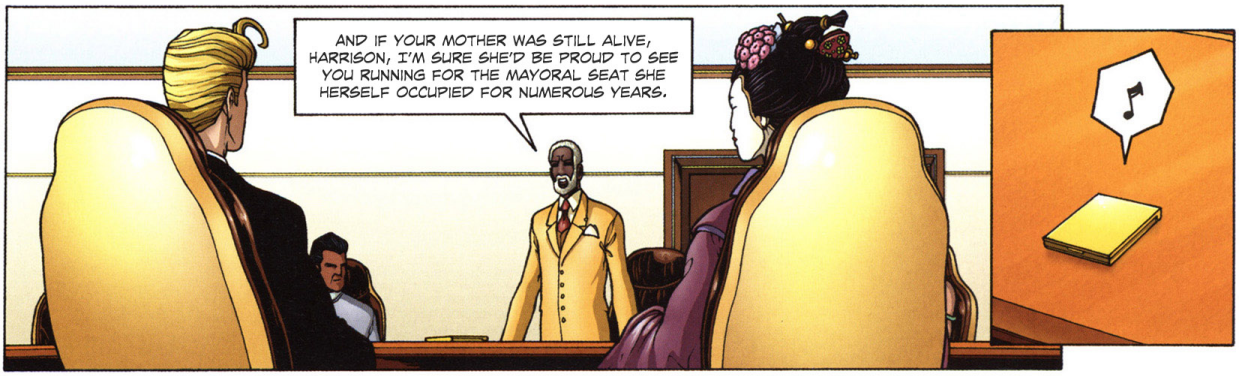

YOUR MOM?! ...WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
TEN YEARS AGO... ON THE NIGHT OF THE HURRICANE THAT DEVASTATED EVERYTHING...

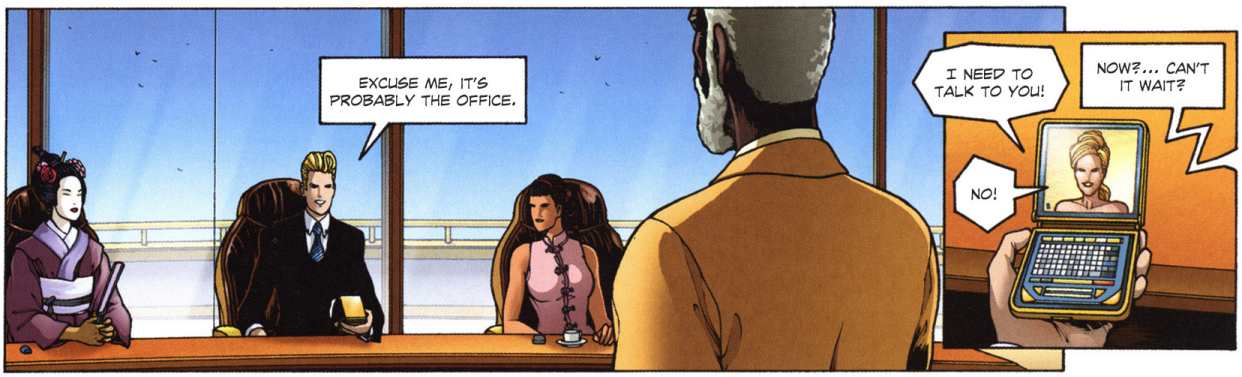

TAKE ME WITH YOU, MAMA...
I WANT TO, MIFA, BUT I CAN'T: I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY THE SMUGGLER FOR TWO SEATS.
WHO'S THIS SMUGGLER?... IS HE FROM AROUND HERE?
NO.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
I DON'T KNOW, HE NEVER TOLD ME... I BARELY KNOW THE MAN, I'VE ONLY MET HIM ONCE.
AND YET YOU TRUST HIM?
I HAVE NO CHOICE!... HE SWEARS HE KNOWS A SECRET WAY INTO GOLDEN CITY... I HOPE TO FIND WORK THERE AND GAIN A RESIDENCE PERMIT.
GOODBYE, MY LOVE... I'M LEAVING, BUT I'M NOT LEAVING YOU... WE'LL BE SEPARATED DURING THE DAY, BUT EVERY NIGHT WE'LL MEET IN OUR DREAMS.
16
HER BULLET-RIDDLED BODY WASHED UP ON THE BEACH THE NEXT MORNING. THE GOLDEN CITY POLICE HAD KILLED HER DURING THE NIGHT, ALONG WITH THE OTHER ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO SAILED WITH HER.

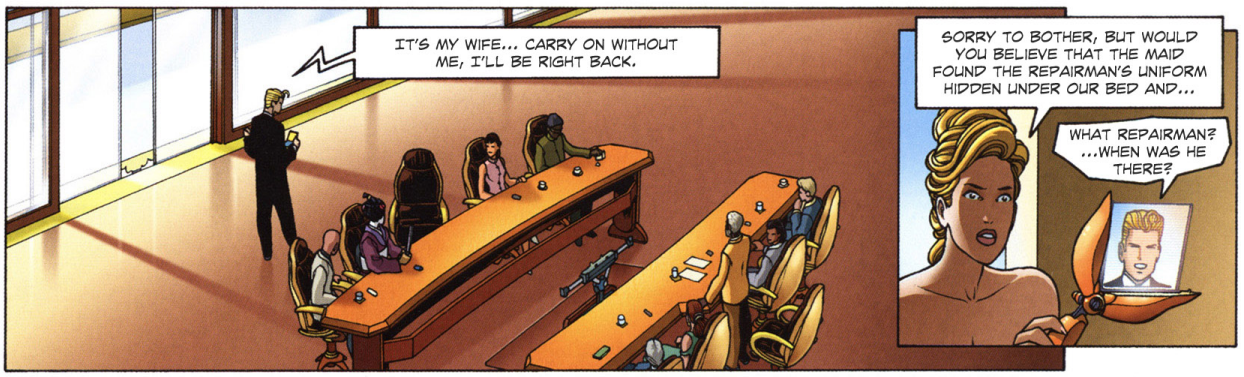
THAT'S A SERIOUS ACCUSATION, MIFA!... SERIOUS AND UNFAIR, BECAUSE IT'S NOT THE TRUTH!
CALL ME A LIAR WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!... SAY I MADE IT ALL UP!
NO!... I'M JUST SAYING YOU'RE MAKING ACCUSATIONS WITHOUT PROOF!... THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED AT ALL!... I OUGHT TO KNOW, BECAUSE ON THE NIGHT OF THAT HURRICANE I WAS ALSO AT SEA...
IT'S GETTING REALLY DANGEROUS, COMMANDER, WE COULD CAPSIZE AT ANY MOMENT!... MAYBE WE SHOULD RETURN TO PORT UNTIL IT PASSES?
NEGATIVE!... OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF GOLDEN CITY, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO PATROL REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER!
COMMANDER!... I'M PICKING UP SUSPICIOUS SOUNDS!... IT COULD BE GUNFIRE!
FROM WHICH DIRECTION?
STARBOARD BOW!

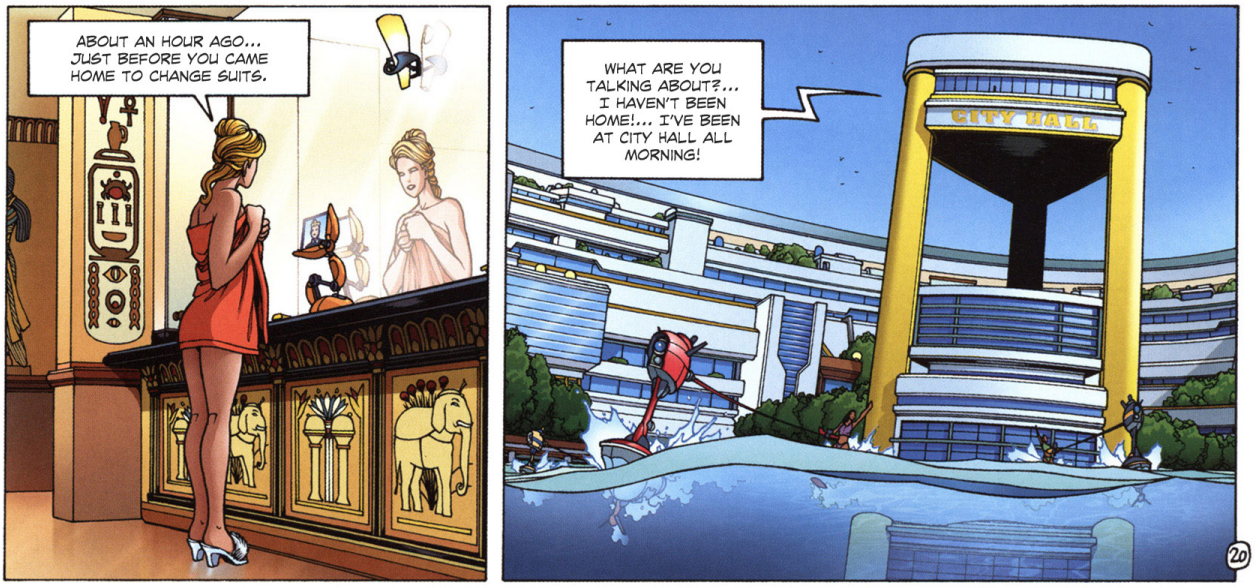

NO!... I BEG YOU!... DON'T KILL ME!... I HAVE A LITTLE GIRL!... WHAT WILL SHE DO WITHOUT ME?... HAVE MERCY, I...
ANOTHER OF THOSE GODDAMN SMUGGLERS WHO EXPLOIT THE GULLIBILITY OF THE POOR TO ROB THEM OF THEIR MEAGER SAVINGS AND THEN KILL THEM AFTERWARDS!... TURN ON THE SPOTLIGHTS, I WANT TO SEE THIS BASTARD'S FACE!
?!
THE JACKAL!!!
WH... WHO'S THAT?!

THE SMUGGLER YOU DESCRIBED SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE A GUY WE CALL "THE JACKAL"... HE LIVES IN AN ABANDONED LIGHTHOUSE NOT FAR FROM HERE.
HE MURDERED MY MOTHER IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES AND YOU LET HIM ESCAPE?... WHY DIDN'T YOU ARREST HIM?!
BECAUSE THE LAW DIDN'T ALLOW FOR IT... AS PRIVATE POLICE, WE CAN ONLY INTERVENE WHEN GOLDEN CITY'S SECURITY IS THREATENED, AND THAT WASN'T THE CASE.
MADAM, LOOK WHAT I FOUND WHILE VACUUMING YOUR ROOM!
WHAT IS THAT?!
A UNIFORM BELONGING TO THE REPAIRMAN WHO WAS HERE EARLIER... IT WAS UNDER YOUR BED!
UNDER MY BED?!
YES!... AND HIS TOOLBOX AND LAPTOP ARE THERE TOO!

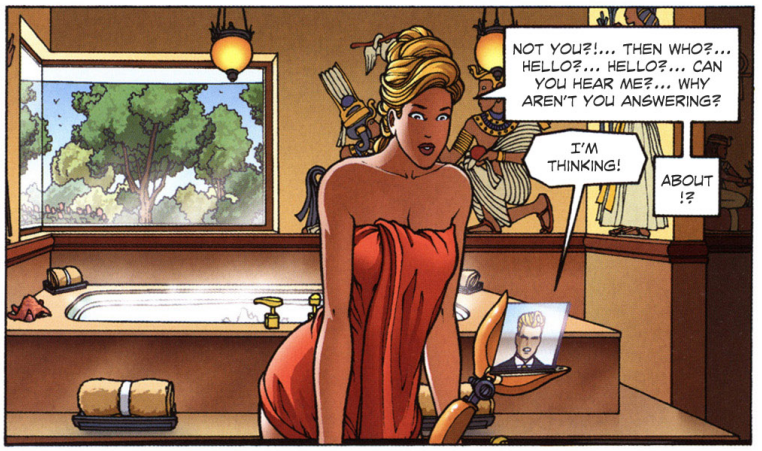

AND IF YOUR MOTHER WAS STILL ALIVE, HARRISON, I'M SURE SHE'D BE PROUD TO SEE YOU RUNNING FOR THE MAYORAL SEAT SHE HERSELF OCCUPIED FOR NUMEROUS YEARS.

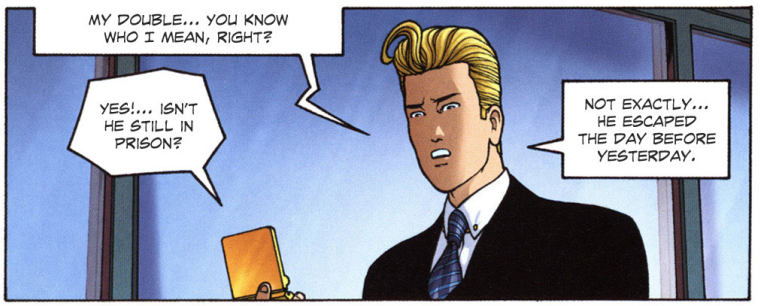

EXCUSE ME, IT'S PROBABLY THE OFFICE.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
NOW?... CAN'T IT WAIT?
NO!

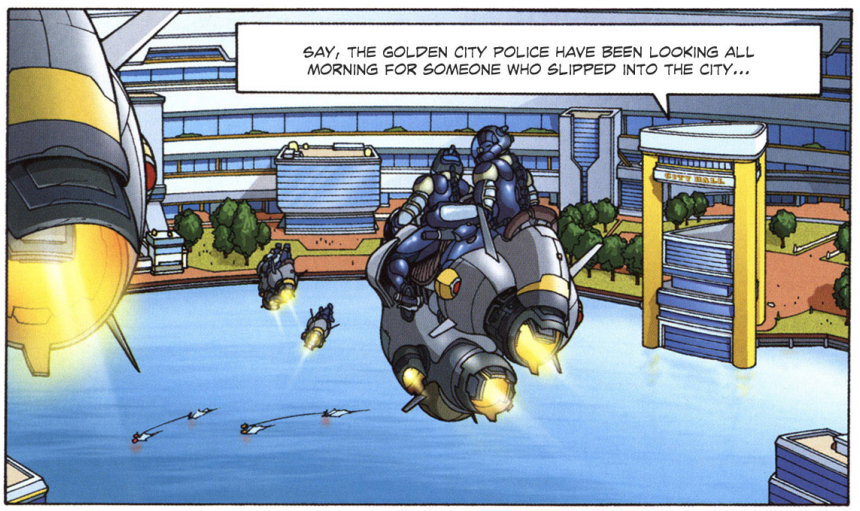

IT'S MY WIFE... CARRY ON WITHOUT ME, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SORRY TO BOTHER, BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT THE MAID FOUND THE REPAIRMAN'S UNIFORM HIDDEN UNDER OUR BED AND...
WHAT REPAIRMAN? ...WHEN WAS HE THERE?


ABOUT AN HOUR AGO... JUST BEFORE YOU CAME HOME TO CHANGE SUITS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?... I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME!... I'VE BEEN AT CITY HALL ALL MORNING!
CITY HALL

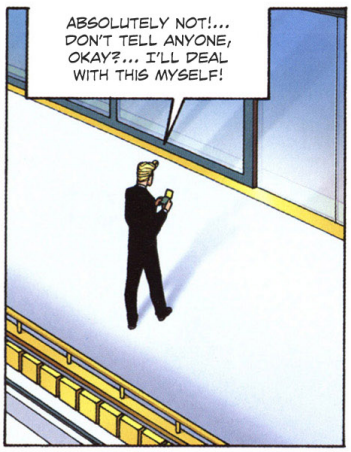
WHAT?!... I'M NOT MAD, YOU KNOW!... I SAW YOU IN OUR ROOM EARLIER!
THAT WASN'T ME, I SWEAR!... LIKE I SAID, I HAVEN'T MOVED FROM HERE!

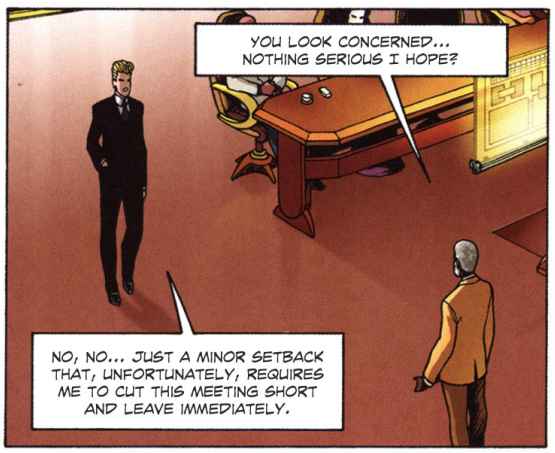

NOT YOU?!... THEN WHO?... HELLO?... HELLO?... CAN YOU HEAR ME?... WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING?
I'M THINKING!
ABOUT !?

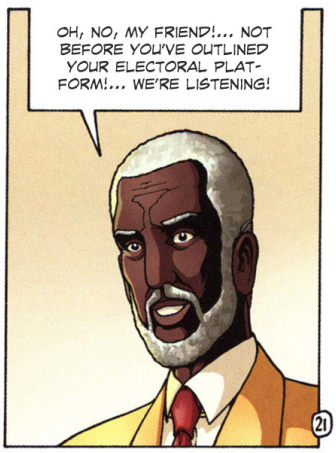

MY DOUBLE... YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN, RIGHT?
YES!... ISN'T HE STILL IN PRISON?
NOT EXACTLY... HE ESCAPED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.


SAY, THE GOLDEN CITY POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING ALL MORNING FOR SOMEONE WHO SLIPPED INTO THE CITY...

YOU MEAN THAT SOMEONE AND YOUR "DOUBLE" COULD BE ONE AND THE SAME?
I'M AFRAID SO.
IN THAT CASE, YOU'RE IN DANGER!... HE HAS OBVIOUSLY COME HERE FOR REVENGE!... YOU HAVE TO ALERT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!


ABSOLUTELY NOT!... DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?... I'LL DEAL WITH THIS MYSELF!


YOU LOOK CONCERNED... NOTHING SERIOUS I HOPE?
NO, NO... JUST A MINOR SETBACK THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, REQUIRES ME TO CUT THIS MEETING SHORT AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

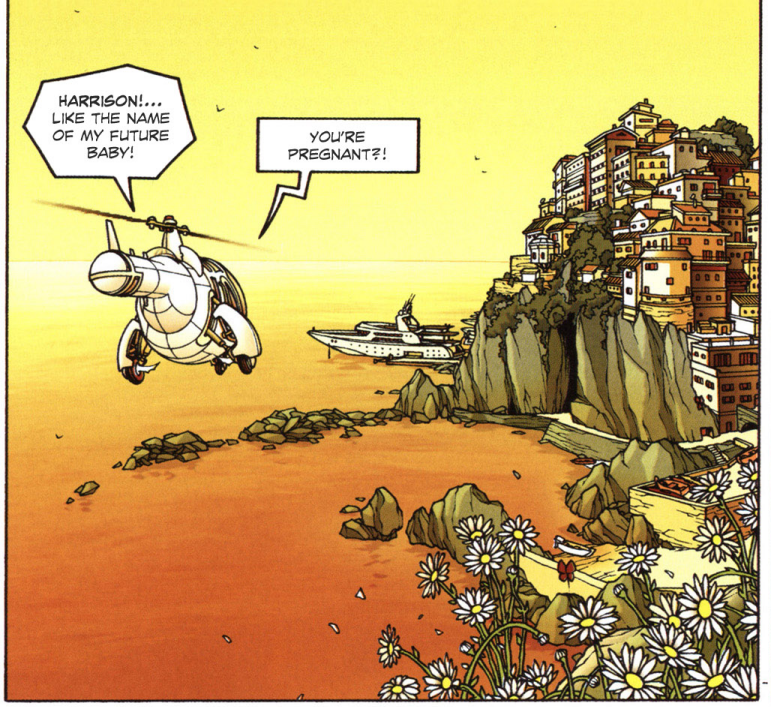

OH, NO, MY FRIEND!... NOT BEFORE YOU'VE OUTLINED YOUR ELECTORAL PLATFORM!... WE'RE LISTENING!

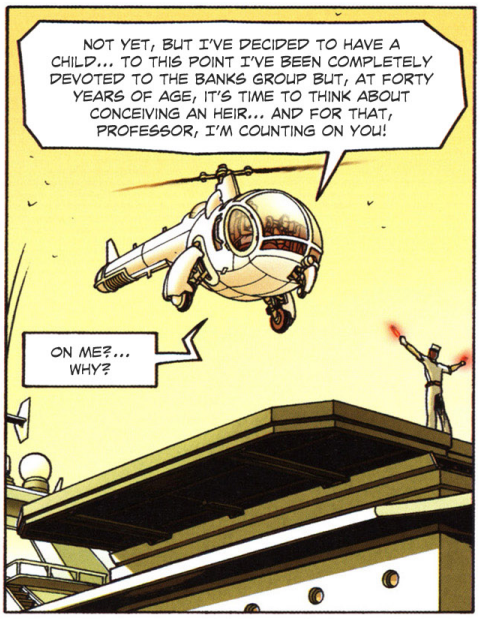
?!
A HUMAN CLONING LABORATORY!... SO THIS IS THE TERRIBLE SECRET MY MOTHER WAS TALKING ABOUT!
?!
?!
ALERT
H... HIM!

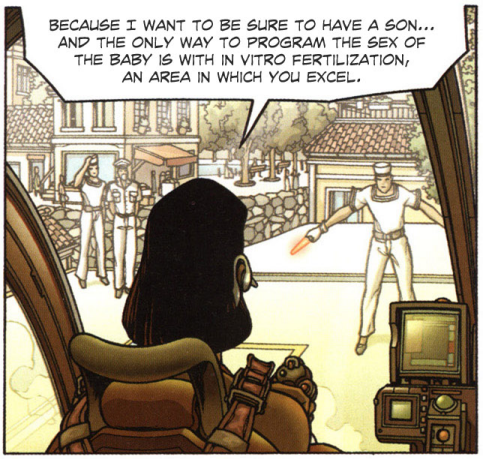
C... CLONES OF JESSICA!
NO, NOT CLONES... THEY'RE SBE'S*, SIMILAR IN EVERY RESPECT TO THE ONE I FOUND WITH THE ORGAN TRAFFICKERS!
WELCOME, MISTER BANKS!
?!
PROFESSOR SEED?!... W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AND YOU?
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?... WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS LABORATORY?... ANSWER, OR I'LL SHOOT!

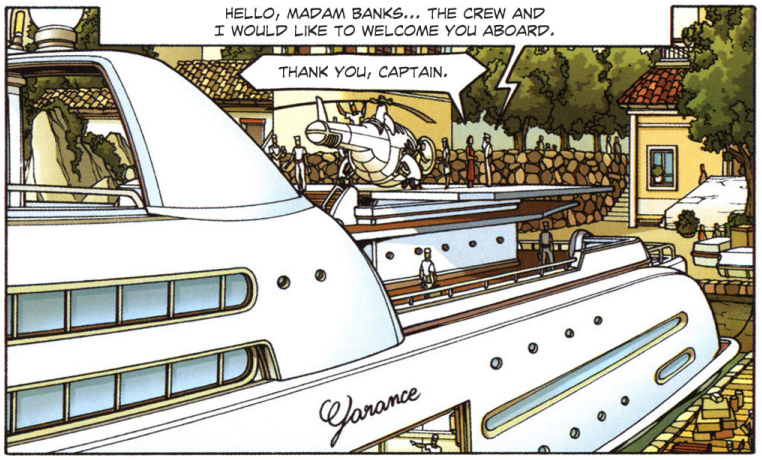
* SYNTHETIC BIOLOGICAL ENTITIES.

I'M WAITING FOR AN EXPLANATION, PROFESSOR.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY!
OH, ON THE CONTRARY!... I'LL BET YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF VERY INTERESTING THINGS TO TELL ME!... ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE CLONED CHILDREN I SAW BACK THERE!... WHAT ARE THEY FOR?
AND THESE SBE'S?... WHY DO THEY LOOK LIKE MY WIFE?... WHY ARE YOU MAKING THEM?... WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
DON'T MAKE ME USE STRONG-ARM TACTICS TO EXTRACT A CONFESSION!... I HAVE EVERY COP IN THE CITY ON MY HEELS, AND I'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE!... UNDERSTAND?... SO TELL ME, WHY DID YOU BUILD THIS LABORATORY?
B... BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER ASKED ME TO!
MY MOTHER?!... WHEN?
THE DAY SHE FIRST TOLD ME ABOUT YOU... THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO.
I WAS YOUNG AT THE TIME, BUT I STILL REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF THE DAY THAT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE FOREVER...
I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT I INTEND TO ENTRUST TO YOU, PROFESSOR SEED.
WHICH PROJECT, MADAM BANKS?
I'LL EXPLAIN IN A MINUTE... BUT KNOW NOW THAT THE FILE IS ULTRA-TOP SECRET AND MUST NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE... AND THAT, FOR SECURITY REASONS, I'VE GIVEN IT A CODENAME...
WHICH IS?


HARRISON!... LIKE THE NAME OF MY FUTURE BABY!
YOU'RE PREGNANT?!


NOT YET, BUT I'VE DECIDED TO HAVE A CHILD... TO THIS POINT I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO THE BANKS GROUP BUT, AT FORTY YEARS OF AGE, IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT CONCEIVING AN HEIR... AND FOR THAT, PROFESSOR, I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
ON ME?... WHY?

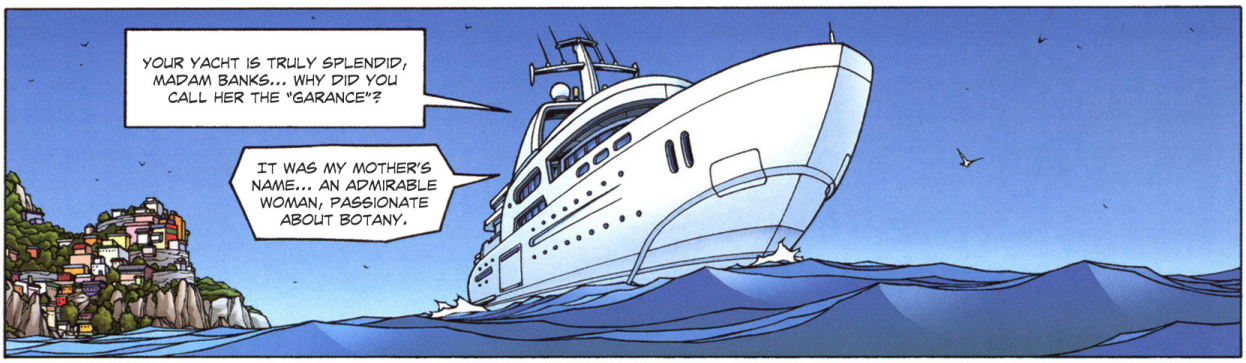

BECAUSE I WANT TO BE SURE TO HAVE A SON... AND THE ONLY WAY TO PROGRAM THE SEX OF THE BABY IS WITH IN VITRO FERTILIZATION, AN AREA IN WHICH YOU EXCEL.

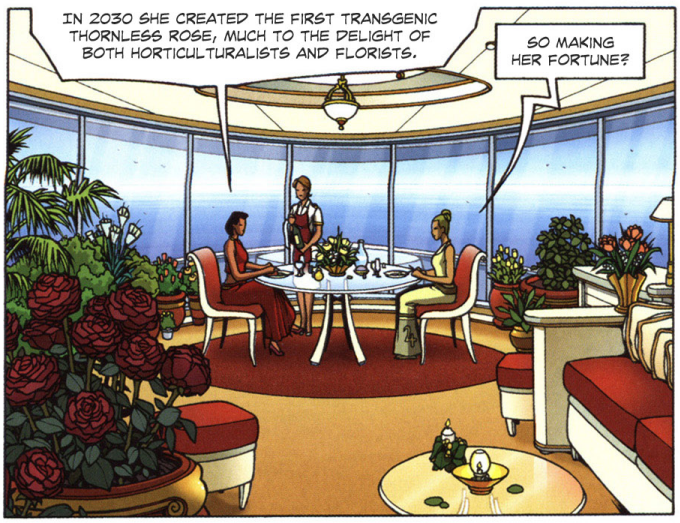

HELLO, MADAM BANKS... THE CREW AND I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ABOARD.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN.
Garance

YOU CAN SET SAIL.
GOOD, MADAM... WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE BREAKFAST?
NOW... YOU CAN SERVE IT IN THE LOUNGE.

AH, I FORGOT: HAVE THE SUBMARINE PREPARED, I'LL NEED IT.
VERY WELL!

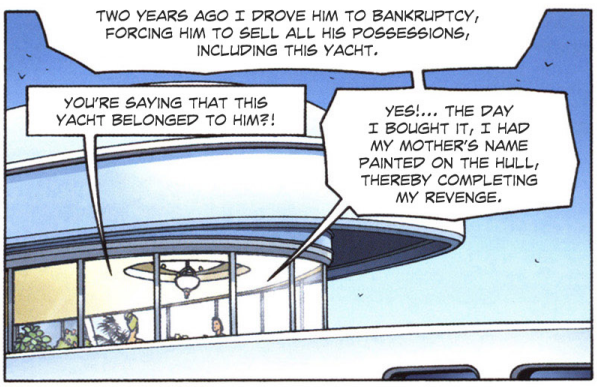
Garance

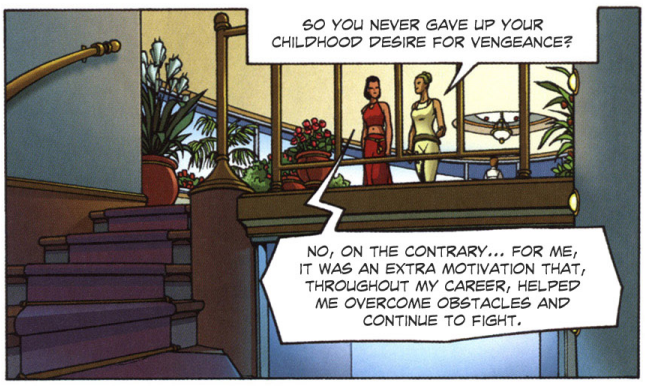

YOUR YACHT IS TRULY SPLENDID, MADAM BANKS... WHY DID YOU CALL HER THE "GARANCE"?
IT WAS MY MOTHER'S NAME... AN ADMIRABLE WOMAN, PASSIONATE ABOUT BOTANY.

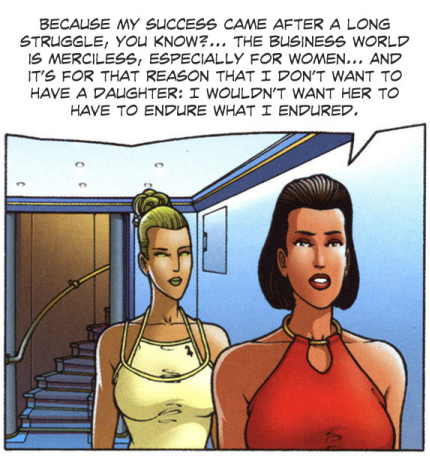

IN 2030 SHE CREATED THE FIRST TRANSGENIC THORNLESS ROSE, MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF BOTH HORTICULTURALISTS AND FLORISTS.
SO MAKING HER FORTUNE?

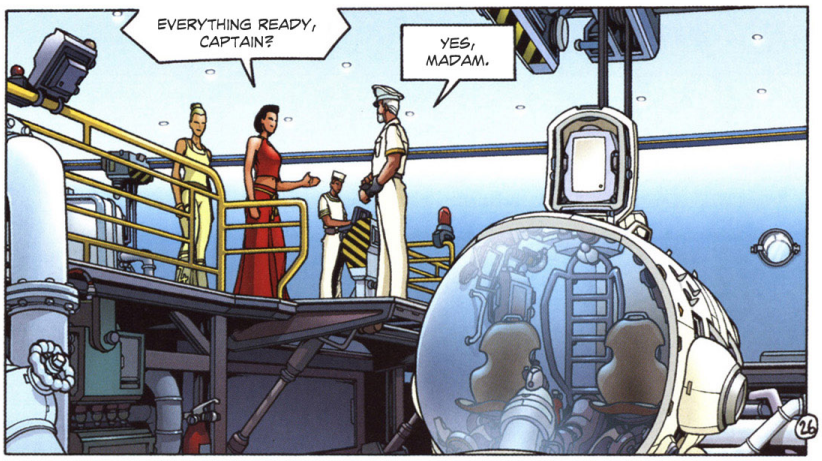
ALAS, NO... SHE WAS A SCIENTIST, NOT A BUSINESSWOMAN... SHE FAILED TO FILE A PATENT AND AN ENTREPRENEUR AMONG HER FRIENDS STOLE HER INVENTION TO EXPLOIT COMMERCIALLY... HE MADE A COLOSSAL PROFIT.

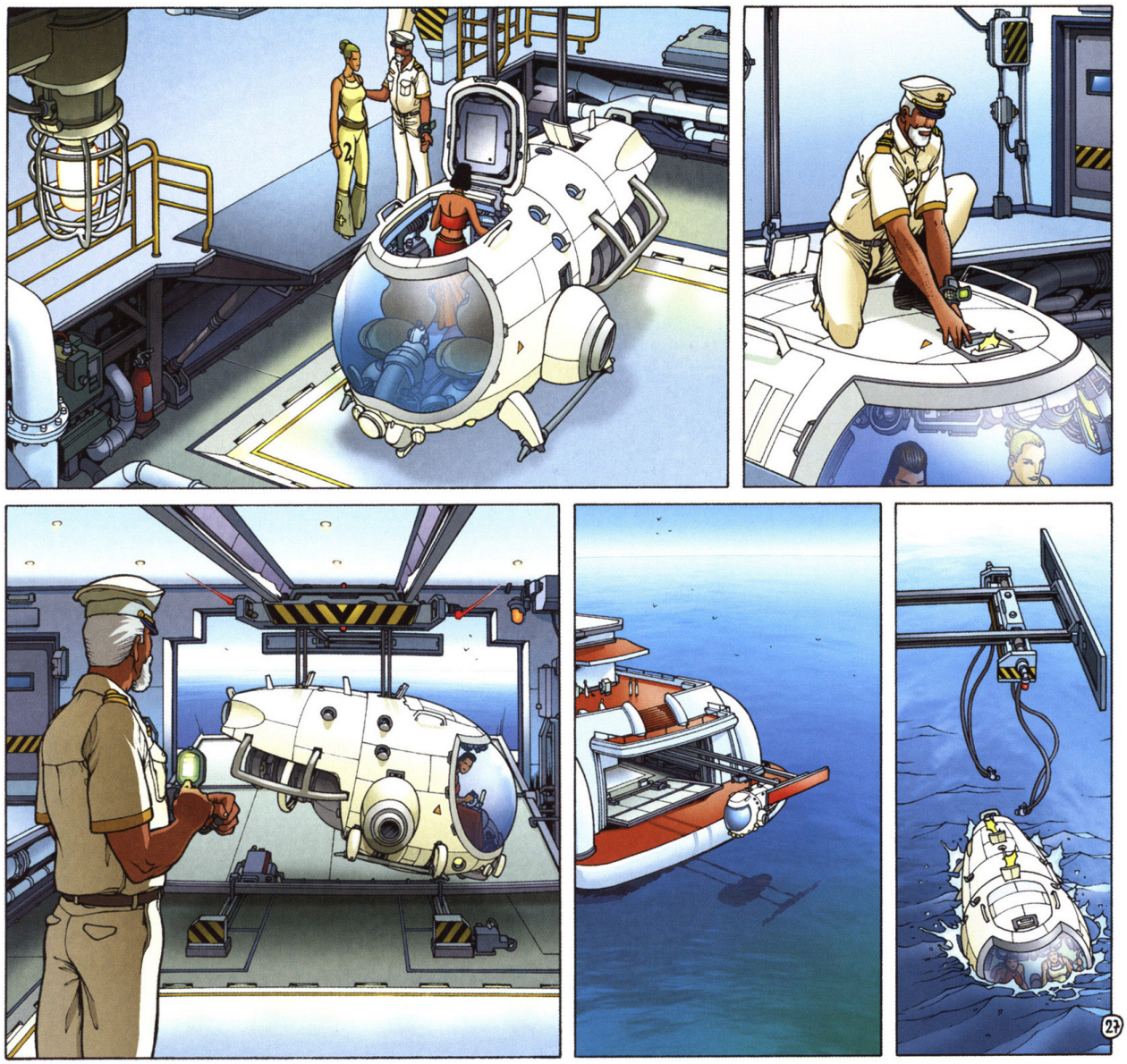
I WAS STILL A CHILD AT THE TIME, BUT THE INJUSTICE WAS SUCH THAT I SWORE TO PUNISH THAT UNSCRUPULOUS BUSINESSMAN SOMEDAY.


TWO YEARS AGO I DROVE HIM TO BANKRUPTCY, FORCING HIM TO SELL ALL HIS POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING THIS YACHT.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THIS YACHT BELONGED TO HIM?!
YES!... THE DAY I BOUGHT IT, I HAD MY MOTHER'S NAME PAINTED ON THE HULL, THEREBY COMPLETING MY REVENGE.


SO YOU NEVER GAVE UP YOUR CHILDHOOD DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE?
NO, ON THE CONTRARY... FOR ME, IT WAS AN EXTRA MOTIVATION THAT, THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, HELPED ME OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT.


BECAUSE MY SUCCESS CAME AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE, YOU KNOW?... THE BUSINESS WORLD IS MERCILESS, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN... AND IT'S FOR THAT REASON THAT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A DAUGHTER: I WOULDN'T WANT HER TO HAVE TO ENDURE WHAT I ENDURED.


EVERYTHING READY, CAPTAIN?
YES, MADAM.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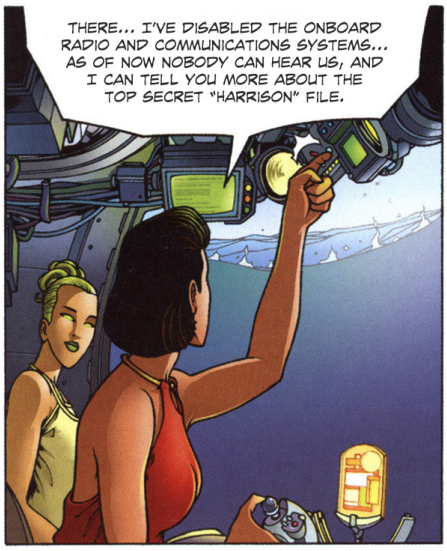
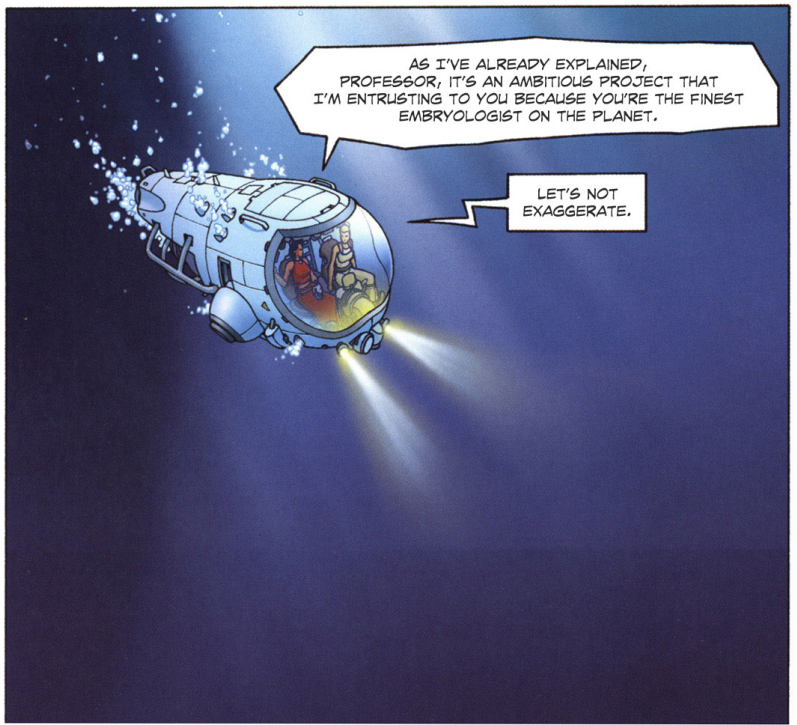
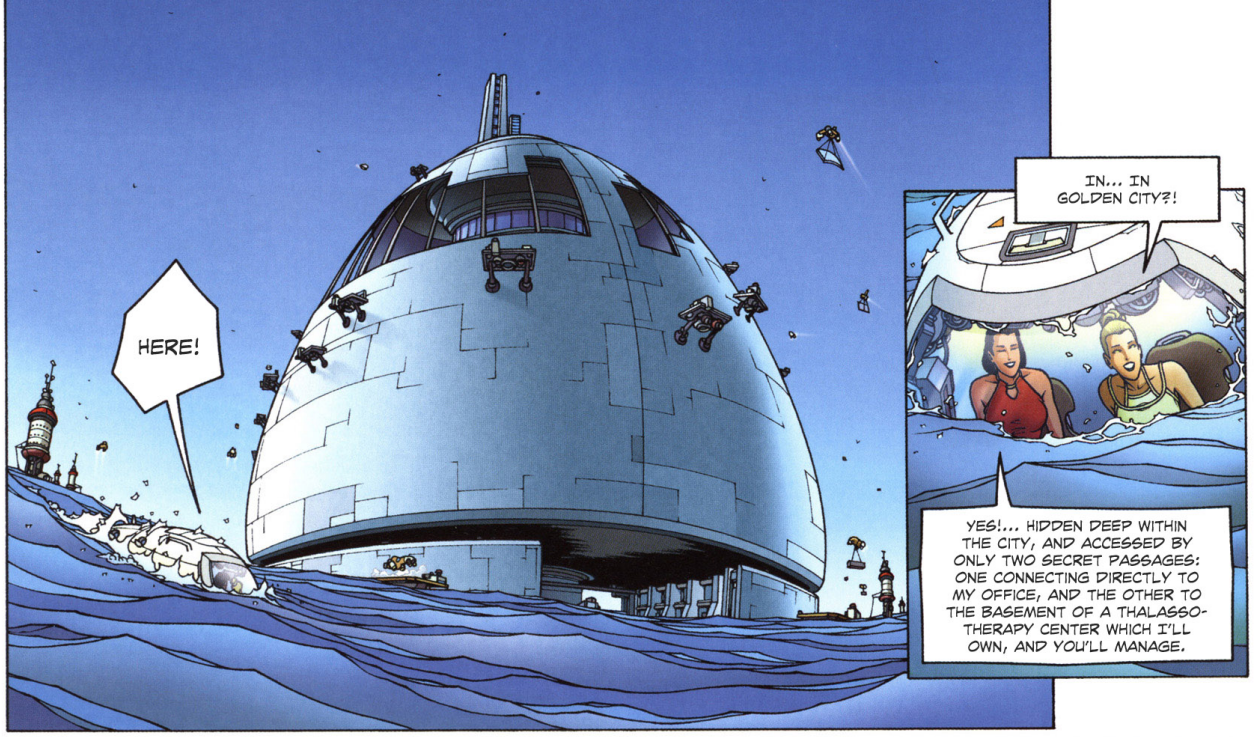
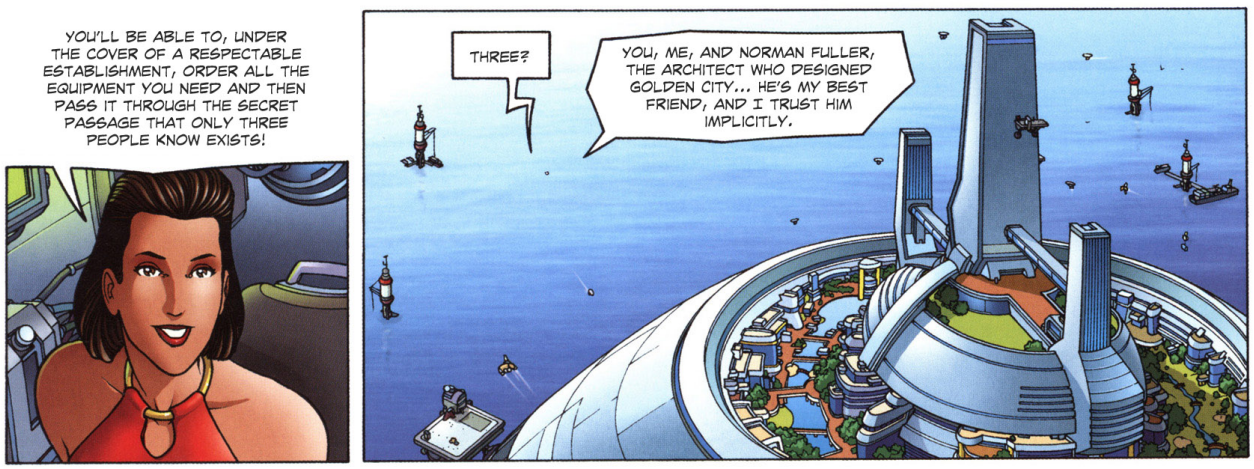
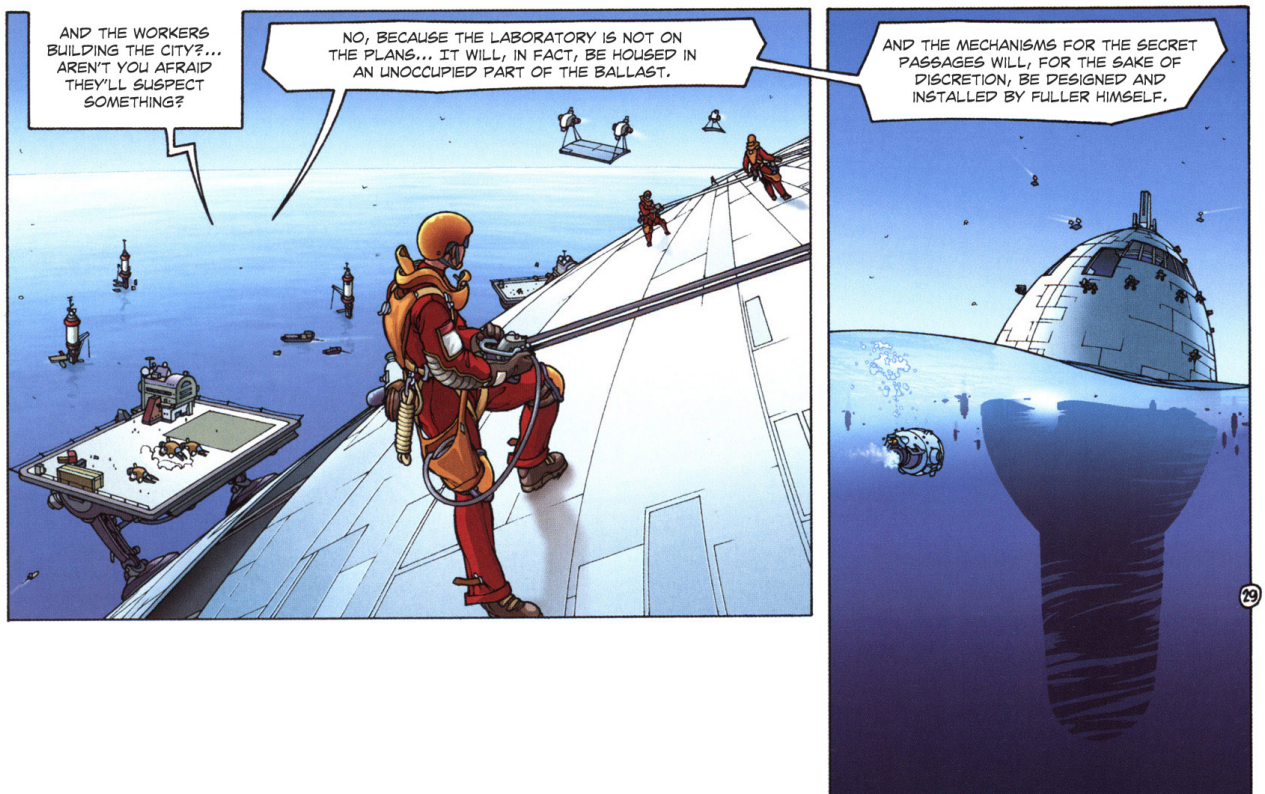

THERE... I'VE DISABLED THE ONBOARD RADIO AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS... AS OF NOW NOBODY CAN HEAR US, AND I CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE TOP SECRET "HARRISON" FILE.

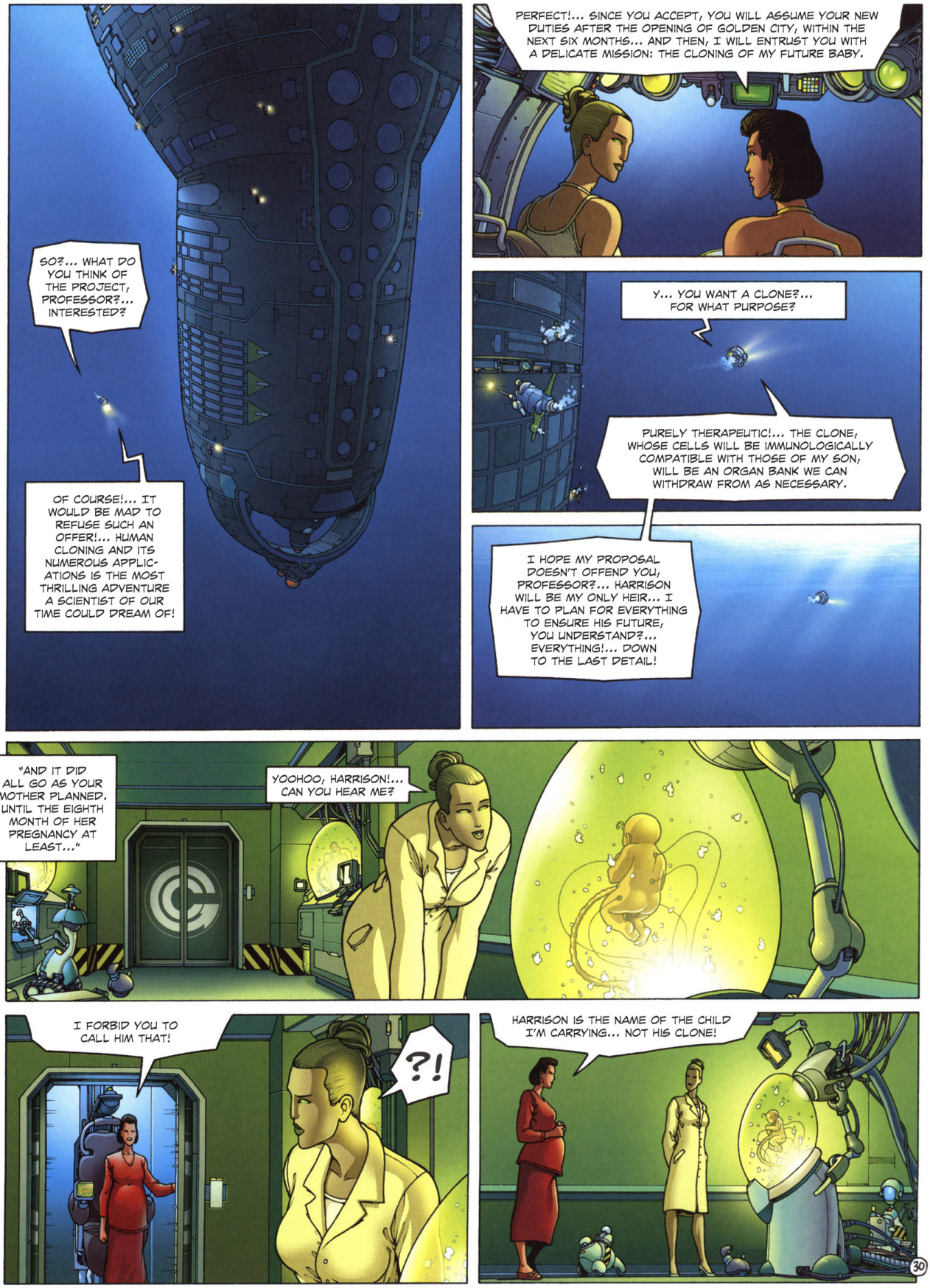

AS I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED, PROFESSOR, IT'S AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT THAT I'M ENTRUSTING TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE THE FINEST EMBRYOLOGIST ON THE PLANET.
LET'S NOT EXAGGERATE.

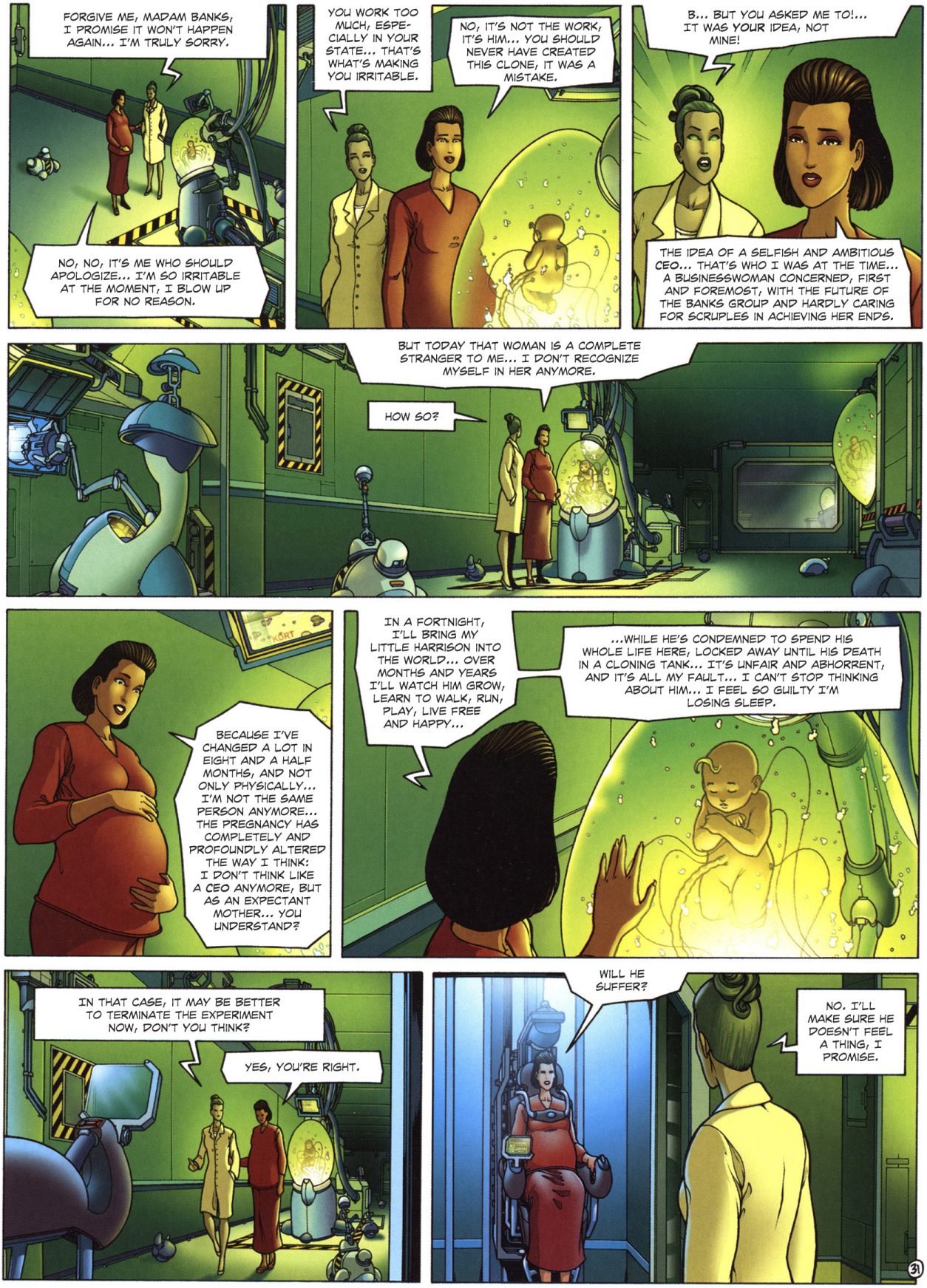
NOW, NOW, DON'T BE SO MODEST!... THANKS TO YOUR WORK ON THE HUMAN GENOME, WE'VE REGISTERED NUMEROUS PATENTS THAT MAKE THE BANKS GROUP THE UNDISPUTED WORLD LEADER IN THE FIELDS OF GENOMICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY.
AND YOUR RESEARCH ON CLONING HAS PRODUCED RESULTS BEYOND ALL OUR HOPES!
THAT'S TRUE... AFTER YEARS OF EFFORT I'VE FINALLY REACHED THE GOAL ...I CAN NOW CLONE HUMAN BEINGS WITH A SUCCESS RATE APPROACHING 100%.
IT'S A PITY THAT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE GLOBAL ETHICS COMMITTEE, THE INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES VOTED LAST YEAR TO BAN ALL FUTURE REPRODUCTIVE CLONING... A BAN TO WHICH THE WHOLE WORLD IS FORCED TO SUBMIT.
ONLY OFFICIALLY... SOME OF OUR COMPETITORS ARE CONTINUING THEIR EXPERIMENTS IN SECRET.
REALLY?... HOW DO YOU KNOW?
THERE ARE PEOPLE I PAY HANDSOMELY FOR THAT SORT OF INFORMATION... NOWADAYS INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE ISN'T SO MUCH A LUXURY AS A NECESSITY; THIS BEING A CASE IN POINT!
IF WE DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND BY THE COMPETITION WE HAVE TO REACT QUICKLY, AND FOR THAT REASON I'VE DECIDED TO BUILD A SECRET LABORATORY...
...WHERE YOU CAN RESUME YOUR RESEARCH. OF COURSE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS OF DISCRETION, YOU'LL BE FORCED TO WORK ALONE, WITH JUST ROBOTS FOR ASSISTANTS.
WHERE IS THIS LAB?
28


HERE!
IN... IN GOLDEN CITY?!
YES!... HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THE CITY, AND ACCESSED BY ONLY TWO SECRET PASSAGES: ONE CONNECTING DIRECTLY TO MY OFFICE, AND THE OTHER TO THE BASEMENT OF A THALASSO-THERAPY CENTER WHICH I'LL OWN, AND YOU'LL MANAGE.


YOU'LL BE ABLE TO, UNDER THE COVER OF A RESPECTABLE ESTABLISHMENT, ORDER ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU NEED AND THEN PASS IT THROUGH THE SECRET PASSAGE THAT ONLY THREE PEOPLE KNOW EXISTS!
THREE?
YOU, ME, AND NORMAN FULLER, THE ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED GOLDEN CITY... HE'S MY BEST FRIEND, AND I TRUST HIM IMPLICITLY.


AND THE WORKERS BUILDING THE CITY?... AREN'T YOU AFRAID THEY'LL SUSPECT SOMETHING?
NO, BECAUSE THE LABORATORY IS NOT ON THE PLANS... IT WILL, IN FACT, BE HOUSED IN AN UNOCCUPIED PART OF THE BALLAST.
AND THE MECHANISMS FOR THE SECRET PASSAGES WILL, FOR THE SAKE OF DISCRETION, BE DESIGNED AND INSTALLED BY FULLER HIMSELF.


SO?... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROJECT, PROFESSOR?... INTERESTED?
OF COURSE!... IT WOULD BE MAD TO REFUSE SUCH AN OFFER!... HUMAN CLONING AND ITS NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS IS THE MOST THRILLING ADVENTURE A SCIENTIST OF OUR TIME COULD DREAM OF!
PERFECT!... SINCE YOU ACCEPT, YOU WILL ASSUME YOUR NEW DUTIES AFTER THE OPENING OF GOLDEN CITY, WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS... AND THEN, I WILL ENTRUST YOU WITH A DELICATE MISSION: THE CLONING OF MY FUTURE BABY.
Y... YOU WANT A CLONE?... FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
PURELY THERAPEUTIC!... THE CLONE, WHOSE CELLS WILL BE IMMUNOLOGICALLY COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF MY SON, WILL BE AN ORGAN BANK WE CAN WITHDRAW FROM AS NECESSARY.
I HOPE MY PROPOSAL DOESN'T OFFEND YOU, PROFESSOR?... HARRISON WILL BE MY ONLY HEIR... I HAVE TO PLAN FOR EVERYTHING TO ENSURE HIS FUTURE, YOU UNDERSTAND?... EVERYTHING!... DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL!
"AND IT DID ALL GO AS YOUR MOTHER PLANNED. UNTIL THE EIGHTH MONTH OF HER PREGNANCY AT LEAST..."
YOOHOO, HARRISON!... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I FORBID YOU TO CALL HIM THAT!
?!
HARRISON IS THE NAME OF THE CHILD I'M CARRYING... NOT HIS CLONE!


FORGIVE ME, MADAM BANKS, I PROMISE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN... I'M TRULY SORRY.
NO, NO, IT'S ME WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE... I'M SO IRRITABLE AT THE MOMENT, I BLOW UP FOR NO REASON.
YOU WORK TOO MUCH, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR STATE... THAT'S WHAT'S MAKING YOU IRRITABLE.
NO, IT'S NOT THE WORK, IT'S HIM... YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE CREATED THIS CLONE, IT WAS A MISTAKE.
B... BUT YOU ASKED ME TO!... IT WAS YOUR IDEA, NOT MINE!
THE IDEA OF A SELFISH AND AMBITIOUS CEO... THAT'S WHO I WAS AT THE TIME... A BUSINESSWOMAN CONCERNED, FIRST AND FOREMOST, WITH THE FUTURE OF THE BANKS GROUP AND HARDLY CARING FOR SCRUPLES IN ACHIEVING HER ENDS.
BUT TODAY THAT WOMAN IS A COMPLETE STRANGER TO ME... I DON'T RECOGNIZE MYSELF IN HER ANYMORE.
HOW SO?
BECAUSE I'VE CHANGED A LOT IN EIGHT AND A HALF MONTHS, AND NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY... I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON ANYMORE... THE PREGNANCY HAS COMPLETELY AND PROFOUNDLY ALTERED THE WAY I THINK: I DON'T THINK LIKE A CEO ANYMORE, BUT AS AN EXPECTANT MOTHER... YOU UNDERSTAND?
IN A FORTNIGHT, I'LL BRING MY LITTLE HARRISON INTO THE WORLD... OVER MONTHS AND YEARS I'LL WATCH HIM GROW, LEARN TO WALK, RUN, PLAY, LIVE FREE AND HAPPY...
...WHILE HE'S CONDEMNED TO SPEND HIS WHOLE LIFE HERE, LOCKED AWAY UNTIL HIS DEATH IN A CLONING TANK... IT'S UNFAIR AND ABHORRENT, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT... I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM... I FEEL SO GUILTY I'M LOSING SLEEP.
IN THAT CASE, IT MAY BE BETTER TO TERMINATE THE EXPERIMENT NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WILL HE SUFFER?
NO. I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T FEEL A THING, I PROMISE.

"BUT I DIDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE, BECAUSE AFTER YOUR MOTHER LEFT, SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENED: THE LITTLE CLONE SUDDENLY OPENED HIS EYES AND STARED AT ME WITH SUCH AN INTENSITY THAT IT CHILLED MY BLOOD!"

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D WITNESSED SUCH A PHENOMENON... NEVER BEFORE IN MY WORK WITH CLONES HAD IT HAPPENED."

"HIS EYES SEEMED TO IMPLORE ME, TO BEG ME TO LET HIM LIVE... I WAS SO UPSET I COULDN'T DO WHAT YOUR MOTHER ASKED... IT WAS BEYOND MY STRENGTH."

"SO I RELEASED THE CLONE FROM THE TANK, BUNDLED HIM UP AGAINST THE COLD, AND FLED WITH HIM THAT NIGHT..."

"AT THE TIME, MY BROTHER LIVED ON THE MAINLAND LESS THAN AN HOUR'S FLIGHT FROM GOLDEN CITY. HE AND HIS WIFE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN, SO THEY ACCEPTED THE CHILD WITH OPEN ARMS AND WITHOUT ASKING TOO MANY QUESTIONS..."

WHAT SHOULD WE CALL HIM?

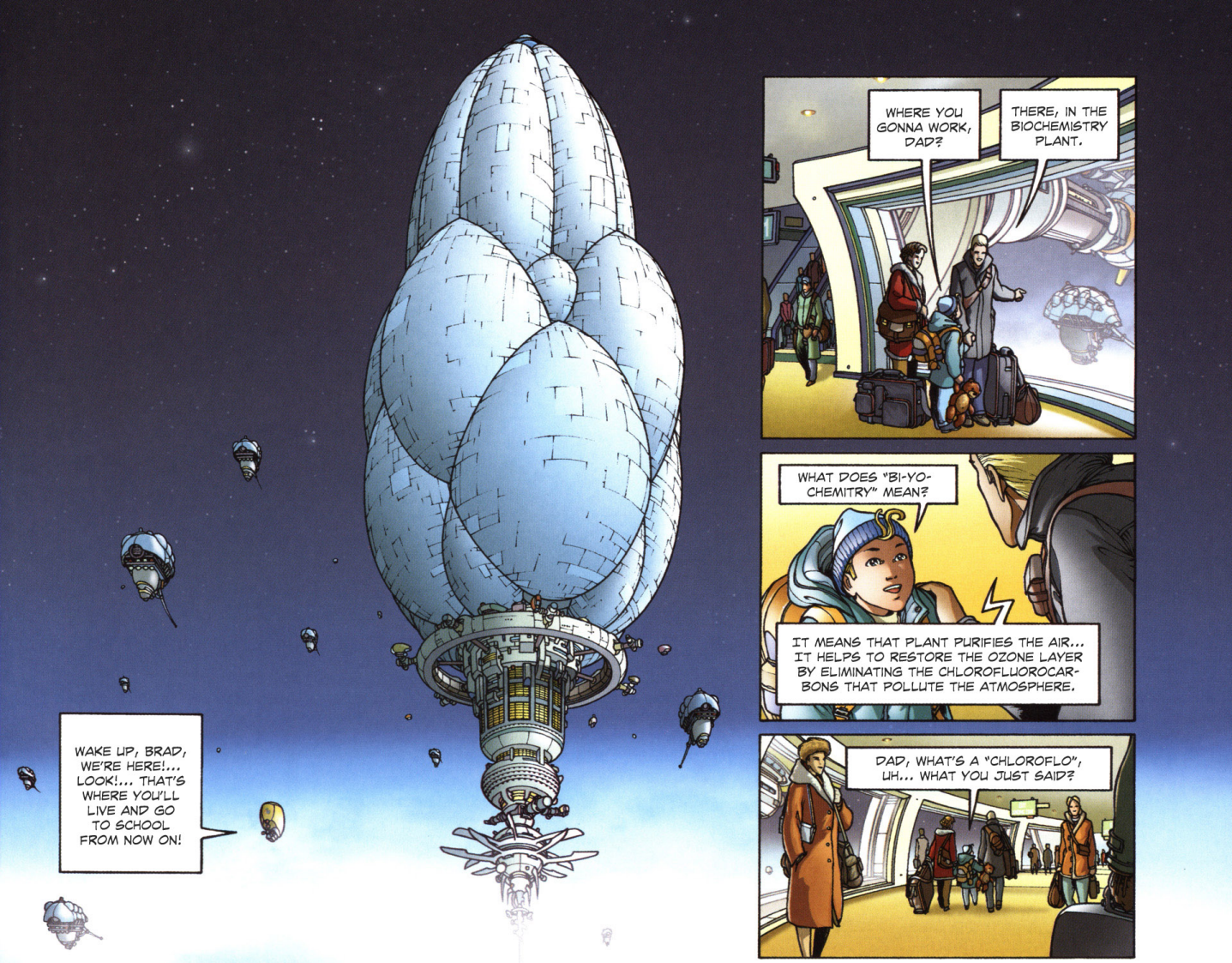
BRAD, LIKE MY FATHER... TOMORROW, WE'LL START THE ADOPTION PROCESS... IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM: HERE, THERE ARE SO MANY CHILDREN ABANDONED ON THE STREETS THAT THE AUTHORITIES FACILITATE THE ADOPTION FORMALITIES AND ALMOST ALWAYS CONSENT.

"SEVEN YEARS LATER MY BROTHER WAS TRANSFERRED AND THEY MOVED..."

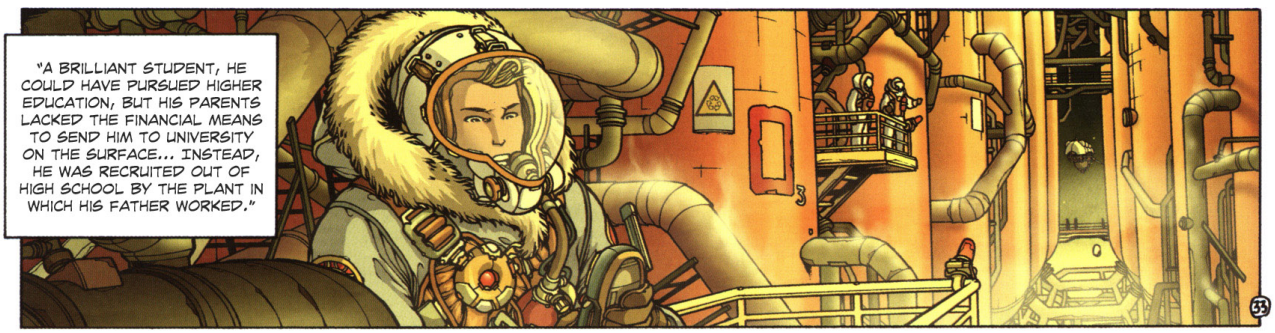
WHERE ARE WE GOING, DAD?

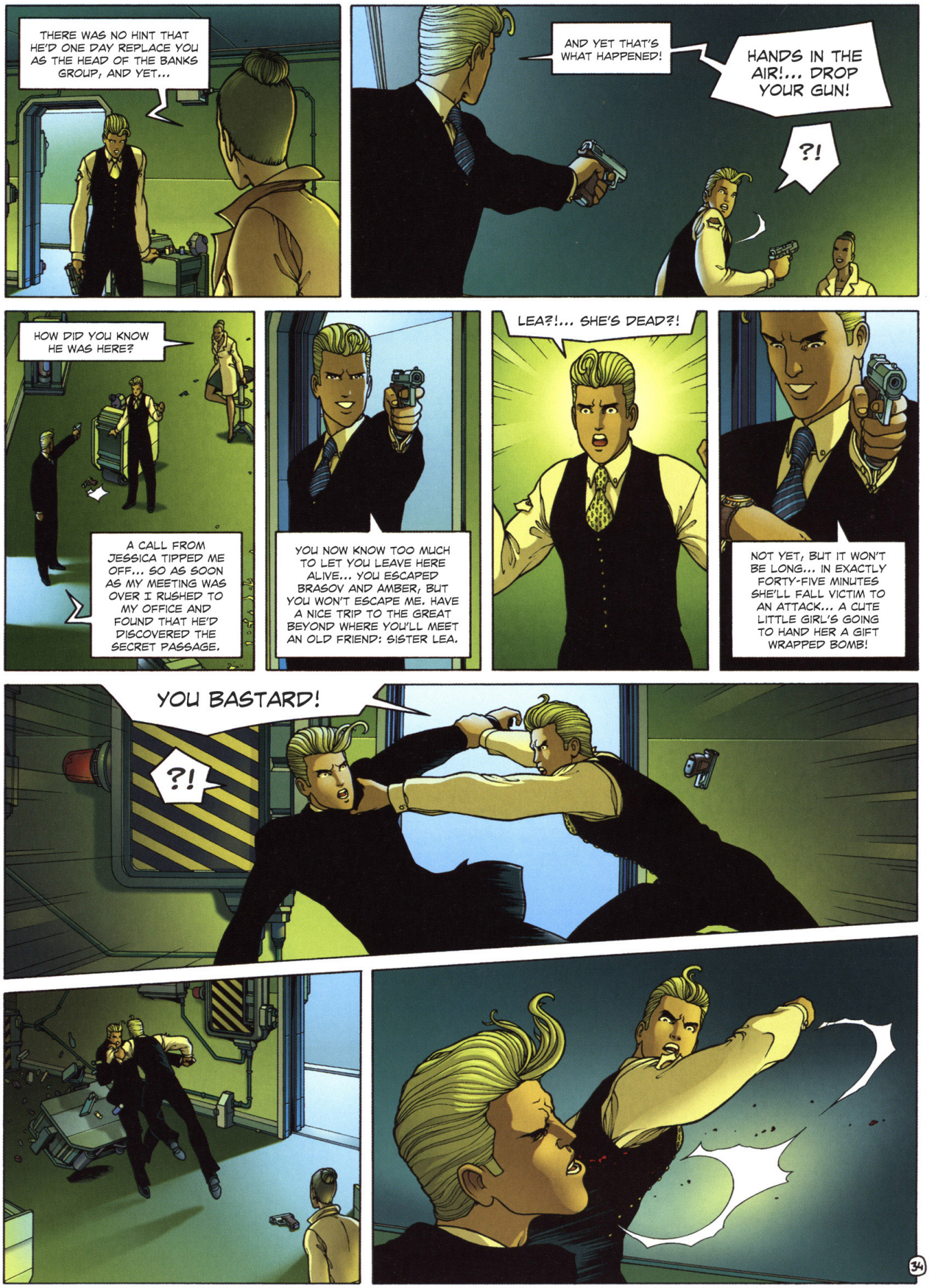
TO THE STRATOSPHERE!

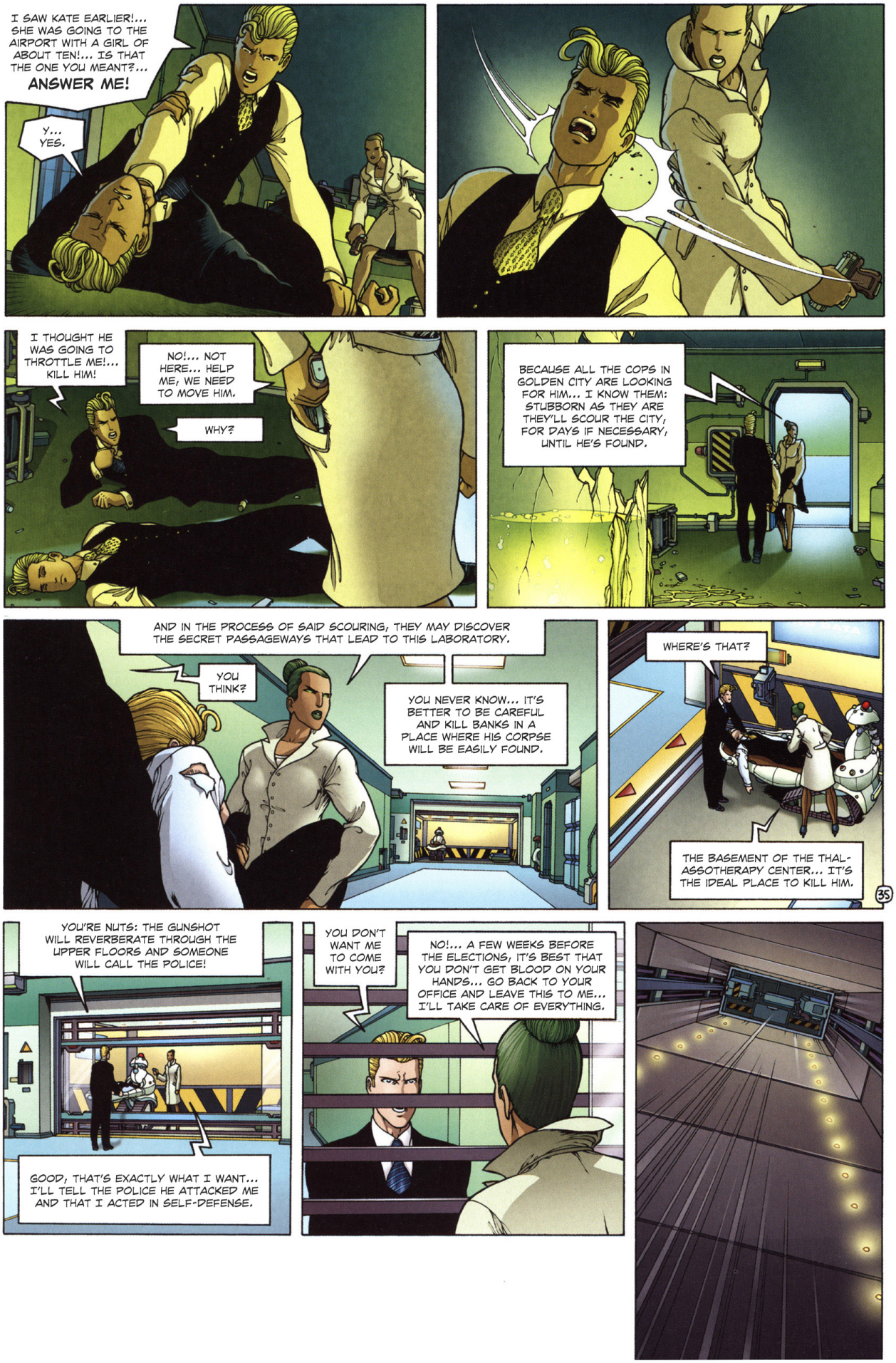
IS THE "TRATOSPEAR" FAR, MOM?... FURTHER THAN THE STARS?

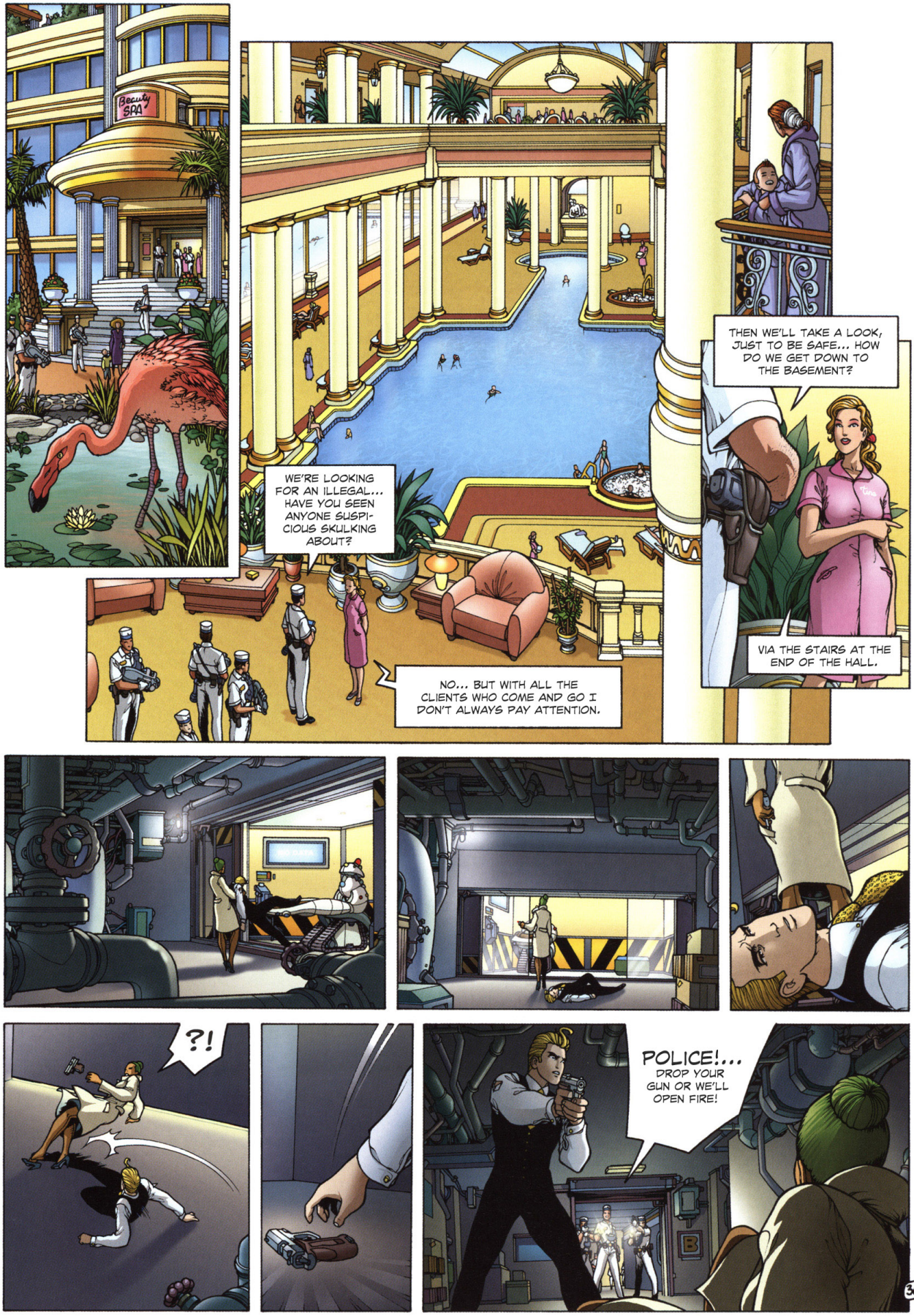

WAKE UP, BRAD, WE'RE HERE!... LOOK!... THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL LIVE AND GO TO SCHOOL FROM NOW ON!
WHERE YOU GONNA WORK, DAD?
THERE, IN THE BIOCHEMISTRY PLANT.
WHAT DOES "BI-YO-CHEMITRY" MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT PLANT PURIFIES THE AIR... IT HELPS TO RESTORE THE OZONE LAYER BY ELIMINATING THE CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS THAT POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE.
DAD, WHAT'S A "CHLOROFLO", UH... WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

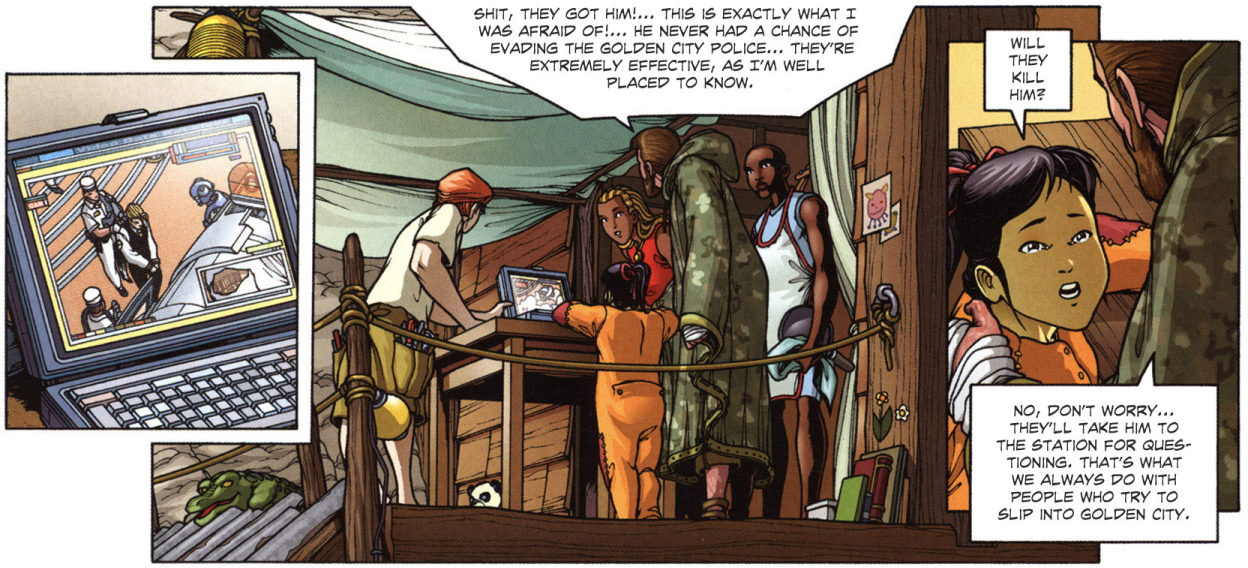
"THE YEARS PASSED... BRAD STILL DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS ADOPTED; BECAUSE MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE CHOSE NOT TO TELL HIM. HE WAS A SMART AND HAPPY KID..."

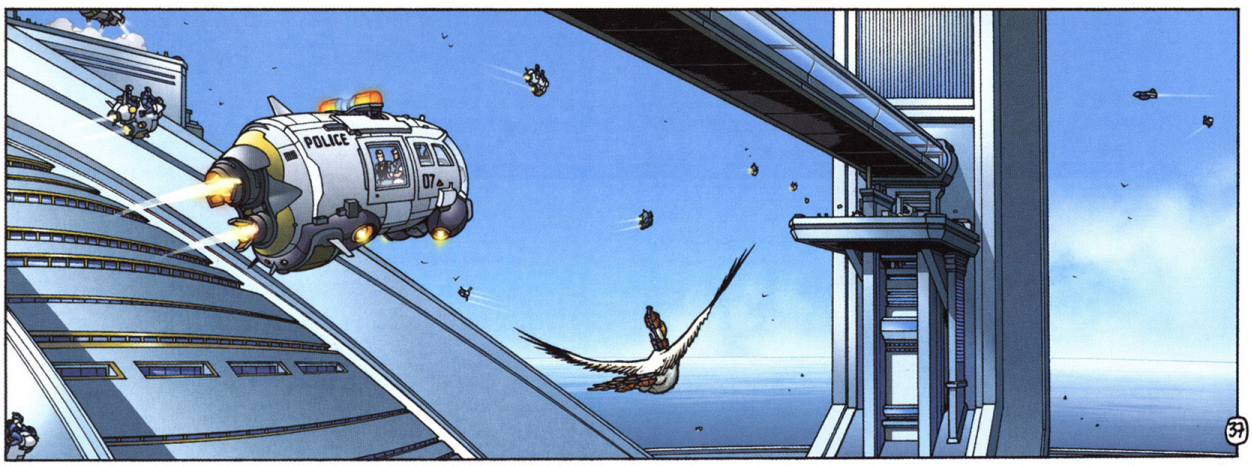

"A BRILLIANT STUDENT, HE COULD HAVE PURSUED HIGHER EDUCATION; BUT HIS PARENTS LACKED THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO SEND HIM TO UNIVERSITY ON THE SURFACE... INSTEAD, HE WAS RECRUITED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL BY THE PLANT IN WHICH HIS FATHER WORKED."

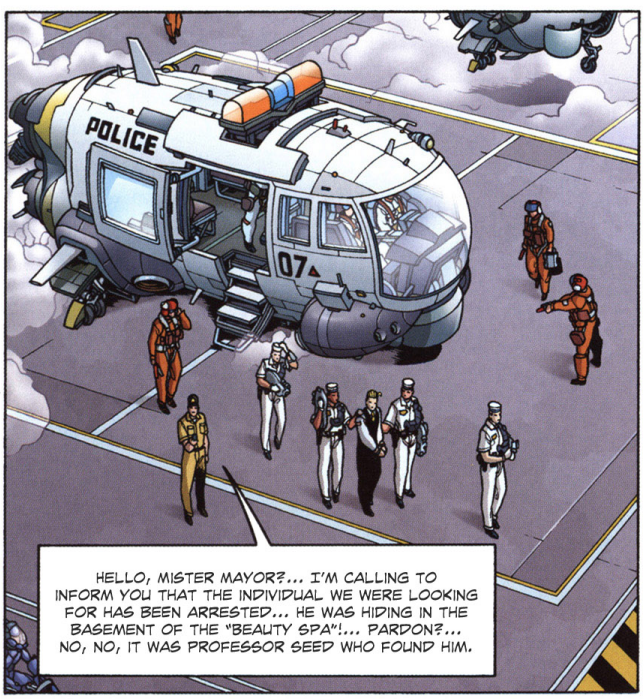

THERE WAS NO HINT THAT HE'D ONE DAY REPLACE YOU AS THE HEAD OF THE BANKS GROUP, AND YET...
AND YET THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
HANDS IN THE AIR!... DROP YOUR GUN!
?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS HERE?
A CALL FROM JESSICA TIPPED ME OFF... SO AS SOON AS MY MEETING WAS OVER I RUSHED TO MY OFFICE AND FOUND THAT HE'D DISCOVERED THE SECRET PASSAGE.
YOU NOW KNOW TOO MUCH TO LET YOU LEAVE HERE ALIVE... YOU ESCAPED BRASOV AND AMBER, BUT YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME. HAVE A NICE TRIP TO THE GREAT BEYOND WHERE YOU'LL MEET AN OLD FRIEND: SISTER LEA.
LEA?!... SHE'S DEAD?!
NOT YET, BUT IT WON'T BE LONG... IN EXACTLY FORTY-FIVE MINUTES SHE'LL FALL VICTIM TO AN ATTACK... A CUTE LITTLE GIRL'S GOING TO HAND HER A GIFT WRAPPED BOMB!
YOU BASTARD!
?!


I SAW KATE EARLIER!... SHE WAS GOING TO THE AIRPORT WITH A GIRL OF ABOUT TEN!... IS THAT THE ONE YOU MEANT?... ANSWER ME!
Y... YES.
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO THROTTLE ME!... KILL HIM!
NO!... NOT HERE... HELP ME, WE NEED TO MOVE HIM.
WHY?
BECAUSE ALL THE COPS IN GOLDEN CITY ARE LOOKING FOR HIM... I KNOW THEM: STUBBORN AS THEY ARE THEY'LL SCOUR THE CITY, FOR DAYS IF NECESSARY, UNTIL HE'S FOUND.
AND IN THE PROCESS OF SAID SCOURING, THEY MAY DISCOVER THE SECRET PASSAGEWAYS THAT LEAD TO THIS LABORATORY.
YOU THINK?
YOU NEVER KNOW... IT'S BETTER TO BE CAREFUL AND KILL BANKS IN A PLACE WHERE HIS CORPSE WILL BE EASILY FOUND.
WHERE'S THAT?
THE BASEMENT OF THE THALASSOTHERAPY CENTER... IT'S THE IDEAL PLACE TO KILL HIM.
35
YOU'RE NUTS: THE GUNSHOT WILL REVERBERATE THROUGH THE UPPER FLOORS AND SOMEONE WILL CALL THE POLICE!
GOOD, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT... I'LL TELL THE POLICE HE ATTACKED ME AND THAT I ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE.
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU?
NO!... A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, IT'S BEST THAT YOU DON'T GET BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS... GO BACK TO YOUR OFFICE AND LEAVE THIS TO ME... I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.


Beauty SPA
WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ILLEGAL... HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE SUSPICIOUS SKULKING ABOUT?
NO... BUT WITH ALL THE CLIENTS WHO COME AND GO I DON'T ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION.
THEN WE'LL TAKE A LOOK, JUST TO BE SAFE... HOW DO WE GET DOWN TO THE BASEMENT?
VIA THE STAIRS AT THE END OF THE HALL.
?!
POLICE!... DROP YOUR GUN OR WE'LL OPEN FIRE!
B

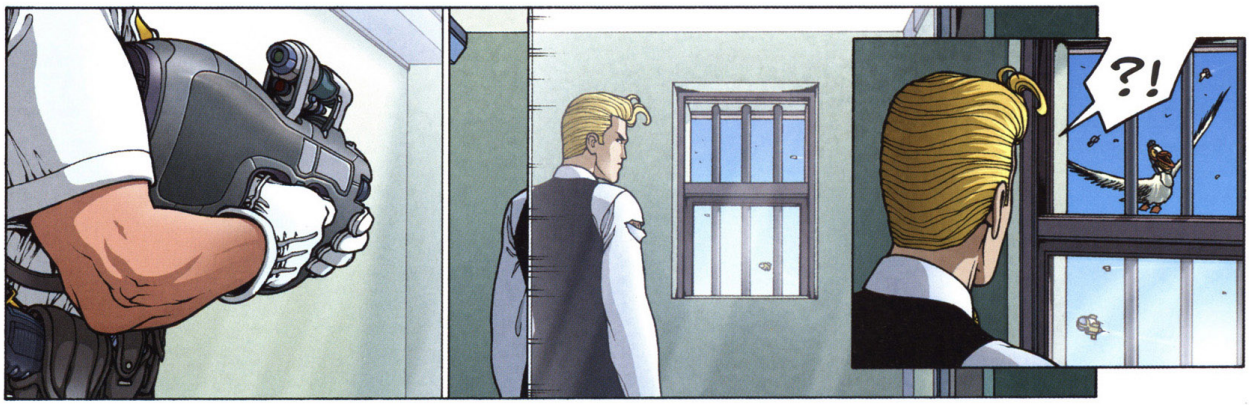

SHIT, THEY GOT HIM!... THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!... HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE OF EVADING THE GOLDEN CITY POLICE... THEY'RE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE, AS I'M WELL PLACED TO KNOW.
WILL THEY KILL HIM?
NO, DON'T WORRY... THEY'LL TAKE HIM TO THE STATION FOR QUESTIONING. THAT'S WHAT WE ALWAYS DO WITH PEOPLE WHO TRY TO SLIP INTO GOLDEN CITY.


POLICE
07
37


POLICE
07
HELLO, MISTER MAYOR?... I'M CALLING TO INFORM YOU THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WE WERE LOOKING FOR HAS BEEN ARRESTED... HE WAS HIDING IN THE BASEMENT OF THE "BEAUTY SPA"!... PARDON?... NO, NO, IT WAS PROFESSOR SEED WHO FOUND HIM.

ACCORDING TO HER, SHE WENT DOWN TO THE BASEMENT TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING AND CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE SUSPECT, WHO THEN TRIED TO MURDER HER... FORTUNATELY, WE INTERVENED BEFORE HE COULD USE HIS WEAPON.

I'VE ORDERED MY MEN TO DETAIN HIM UNTIL SUCH A TIME AS YOU CAN CONVENE THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE HIS FATE.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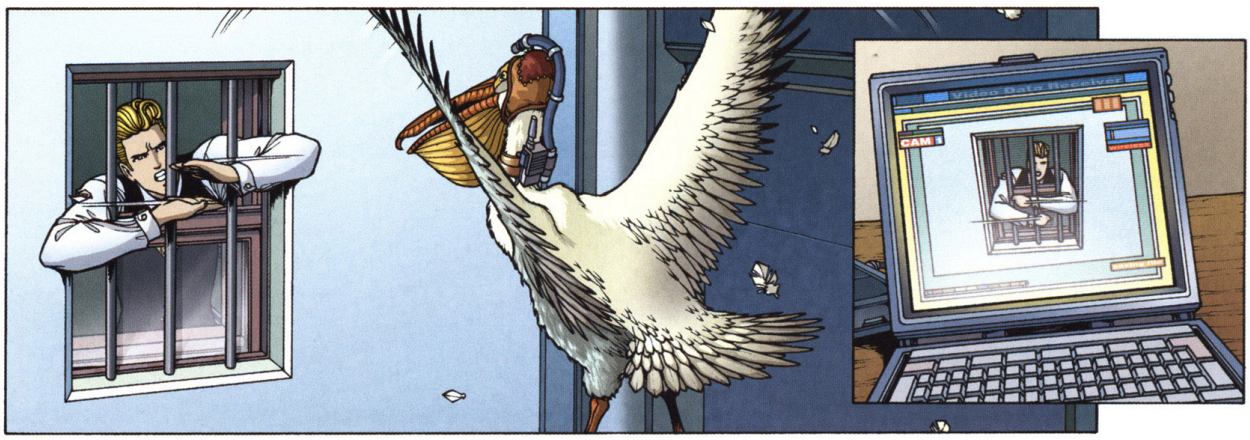
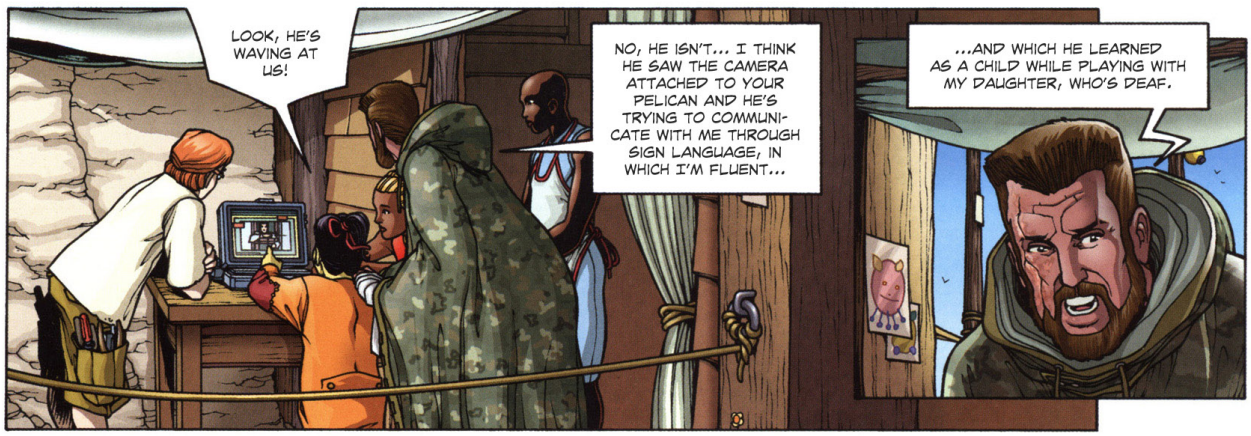
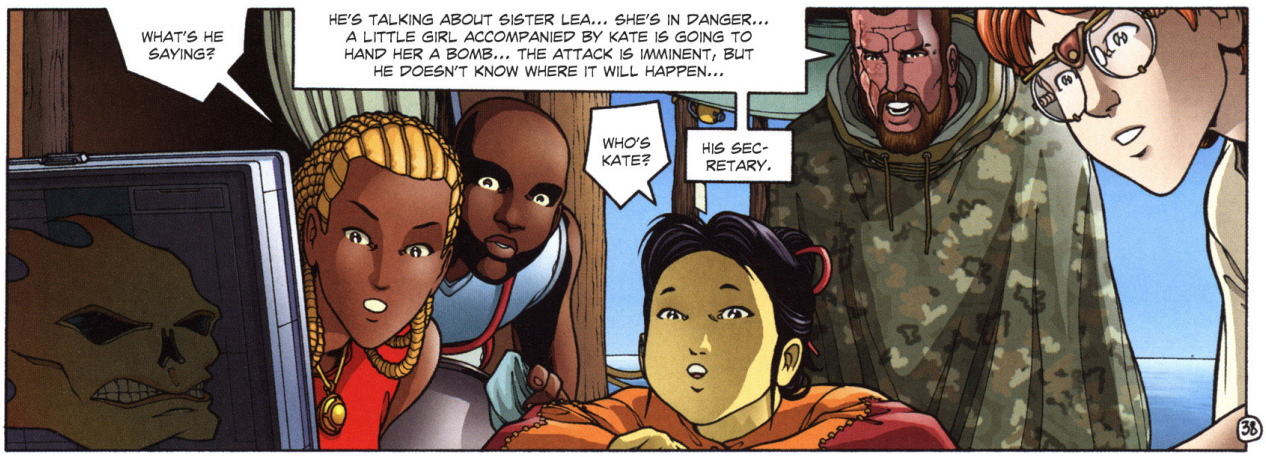
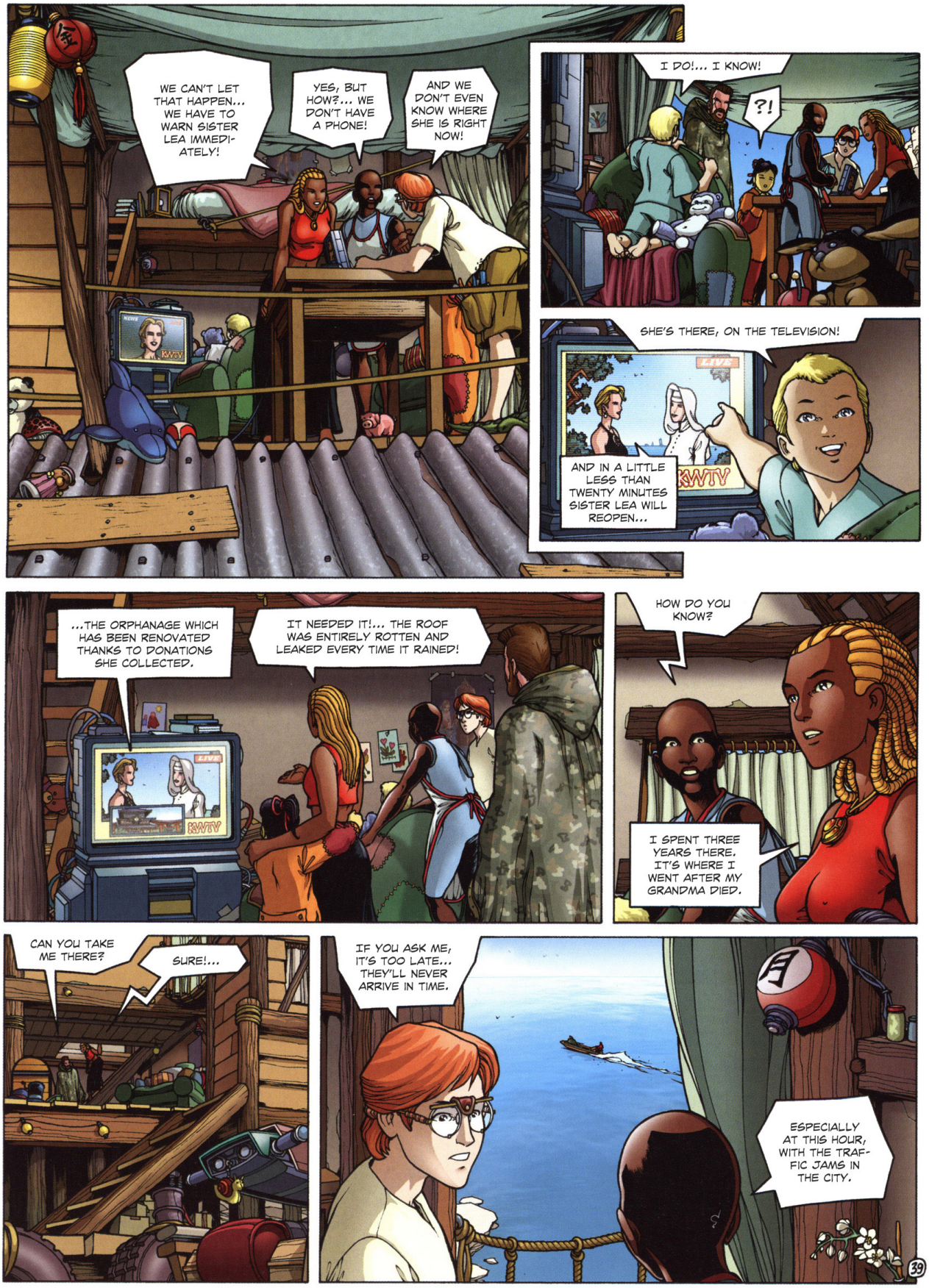
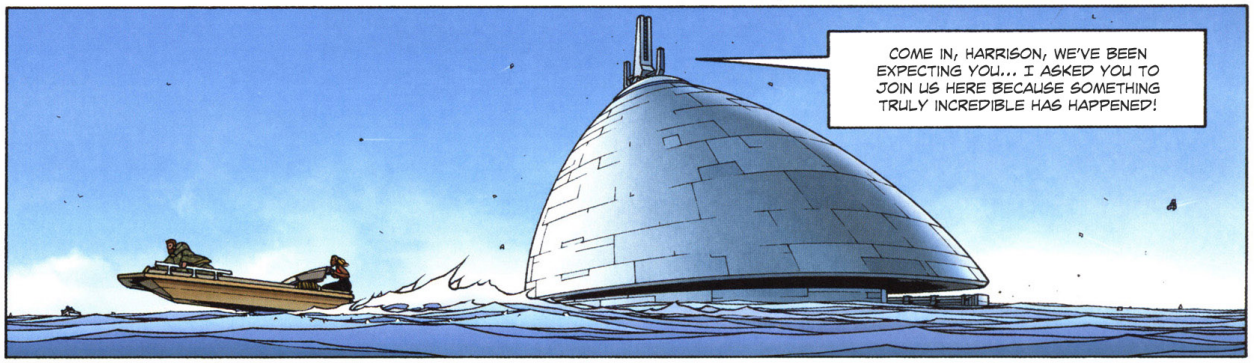
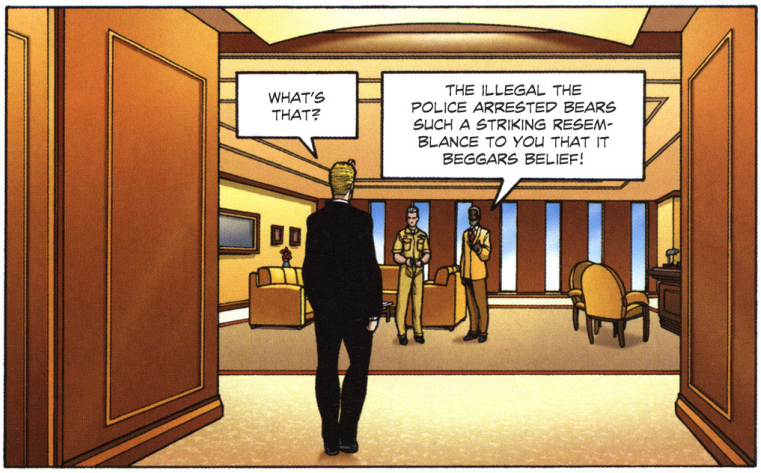

Video Data Receiver
CAM

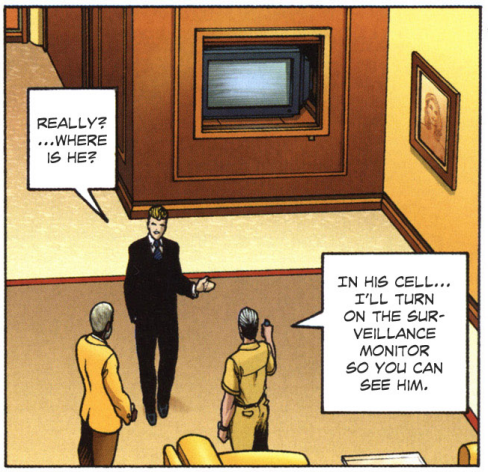

LOOK, HE'S WAVING AT US!
NO, HE ISN'T... I THINK HE SAW THE CAMERA ATTACHED TO YOUR PELICAN AND HE'S TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME THROUGH SIGN LANGUAGE, IN WHICH I'M FLUENT...
...AND WHICH HE LEARNED AS A CHILD WHILE PLAYING WITH MY DAUGHTER, WHO'S DEAF.

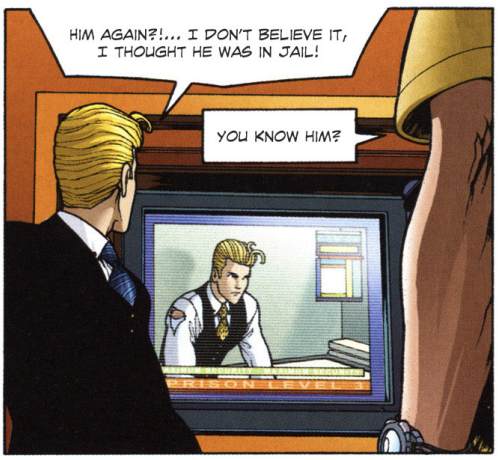

WHAT'S HE SAYING?
HE'S TALKING ABOUT SISTER LEA... SHE'S IN DANGER... A LITTLE GIRL ACCOMPANIED BY KATE IS GOING TO HAND HER A BOMB... THE ATTACK IS IMMINENT, BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE IT WILL HAPPEN...
WHO'S KATE?
HIS SECRETARY.

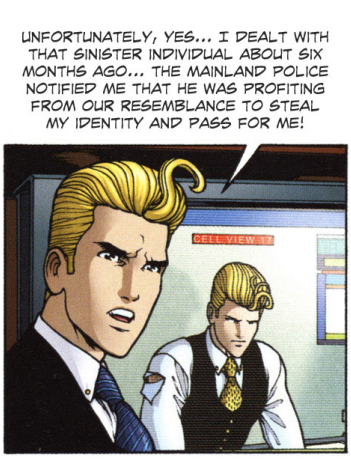

WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN... WE HAVE TO WARN SISTER LEA IMMEDIATELY!
YES, BUT HOW?... WE DON'T HAVE A PHONE!
AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE IS RIGHT NOW!
I DO!... I KNOW!
?!
SHE'S THERE, ON THE TELEVISION!
LIVE
KWTV
AND IN A LITTLE LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES SISTER LEA WILL REOPEN...
...THE ORPHANAGE WHICH HAS BEEN RENOVATED THANKS TO DONATIONS SHE COLLECTED.
IT NEEDED IT!... THE ROOF WAS ENTIRELY ROTTEN AND LEAKED EVERY TIME IT RAINED!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I SPENT THREE YEARS THERE. IT'S WHERE I WENT AFTER MY GRANDMA DIED.
CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE?
SURE!...
IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S TOO LATE... THEY'LL NEVER ARRIVE IN TIME.
ESPECIALLY AT THIS HOUR, WITH THE TRAFFIC JAMS IN THE CITY.

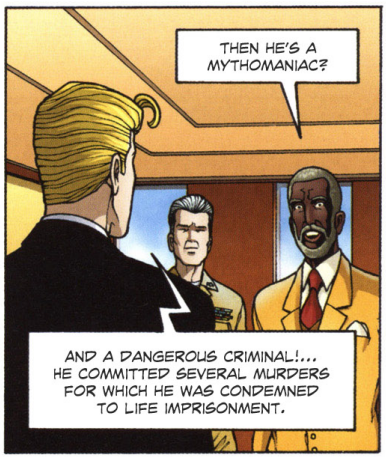

COME IN, HARRISON, WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU... I ASKED YOU TO JOIN US HERE BECAUSE SOMETHING TRULY INCREDIBLE HAS HAPPENED!

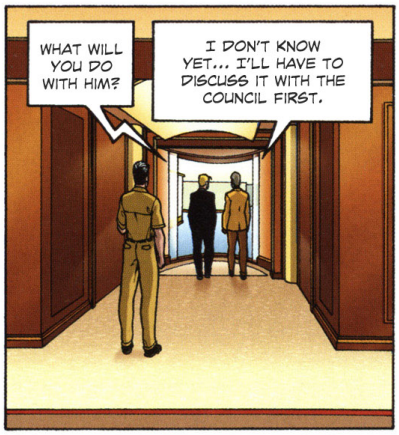

WHAT'S THAT?
THE ILLEGAL THE POLICE ARRESTED BEARS SUCH A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO YOU THAT IT BEGGARS BELIEF!

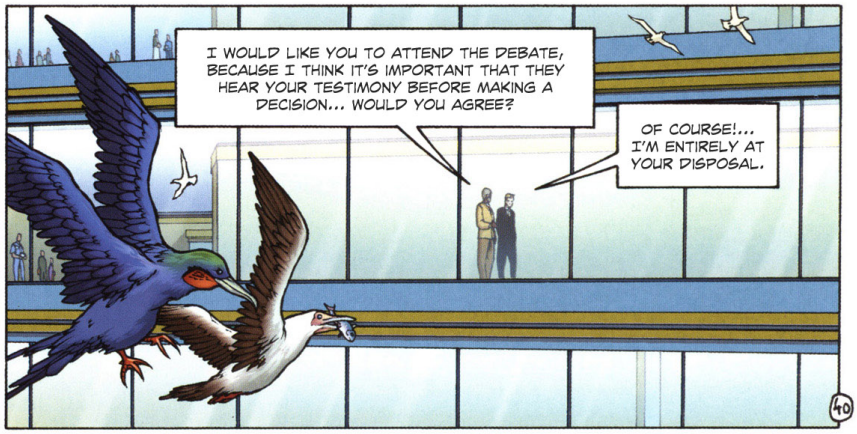

REALLY? ...WHERE IS HE?
IN HIS CELL... I'LL TURN ON THE SURVEILLANCE MONITOR SO YOU CAN SEE HIM.

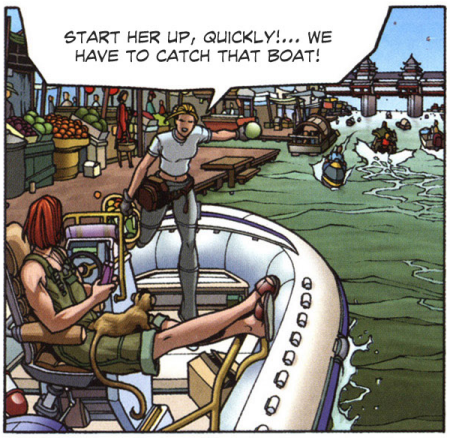

HIM AGAIN?!... I DON'T BELIEVE IT, I THOUGHT HE WAS IN JAIL!
YOU KNOW HIM?
PRISON LEVEL

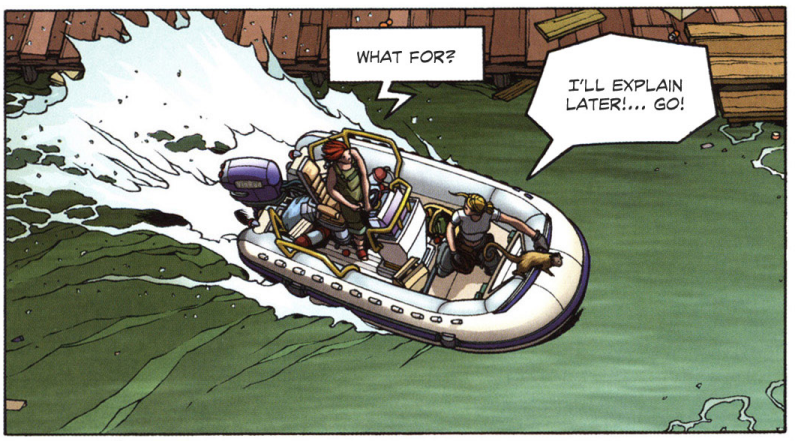

UNFORTUNATELY, YES... I DEALT WITH THAT SINISTER INDIVIDUAL ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO... THE MAINLAND POLICE NOTIFIED ME THAT HE WAS PROFITING FROM OUR RESEMBLANCE TO STEAL MY IDENTITY AND PASS FOR ME!
CELL VIEW 17

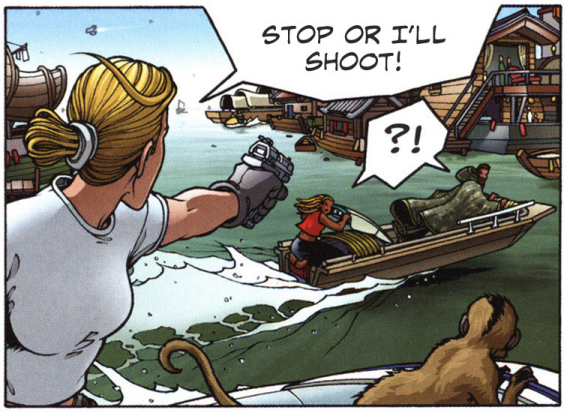

THEN HE'S A MYTHOMANIAC?
AND A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL!... HE COMMITTED SEVERAL MURDERS FOR WHICH HE WAS CONDEMNED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.


WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HIM?
I DON'T KNOW YET... I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE COUNCIL FIRST.


I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ATTEND THE DEBATE, BECAUSE I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THEY HEAR YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION... WOULD YOU AGREE?
OF COURSE!... I'M ENTIRELY AT YOUR DISPOSAL.



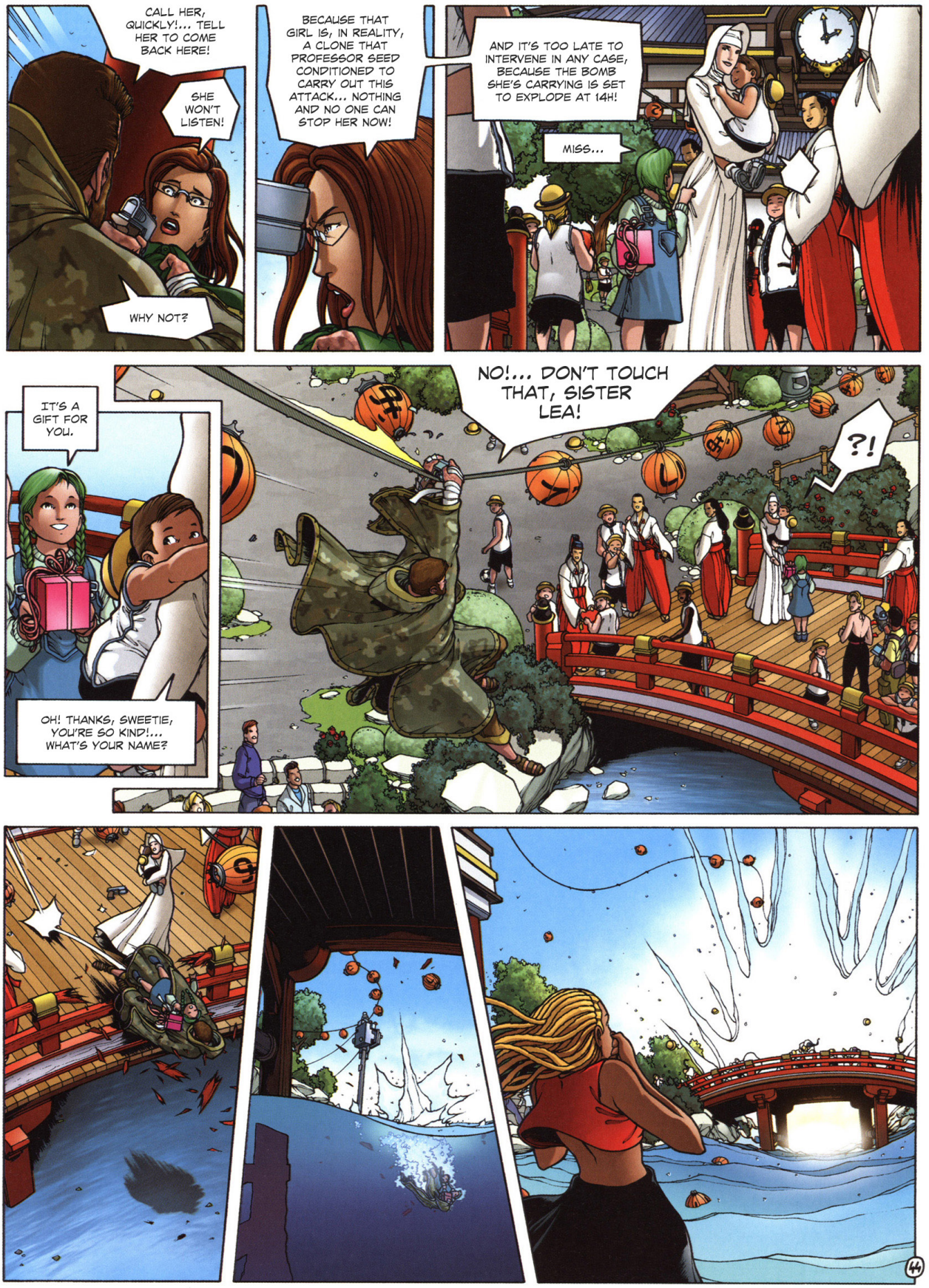


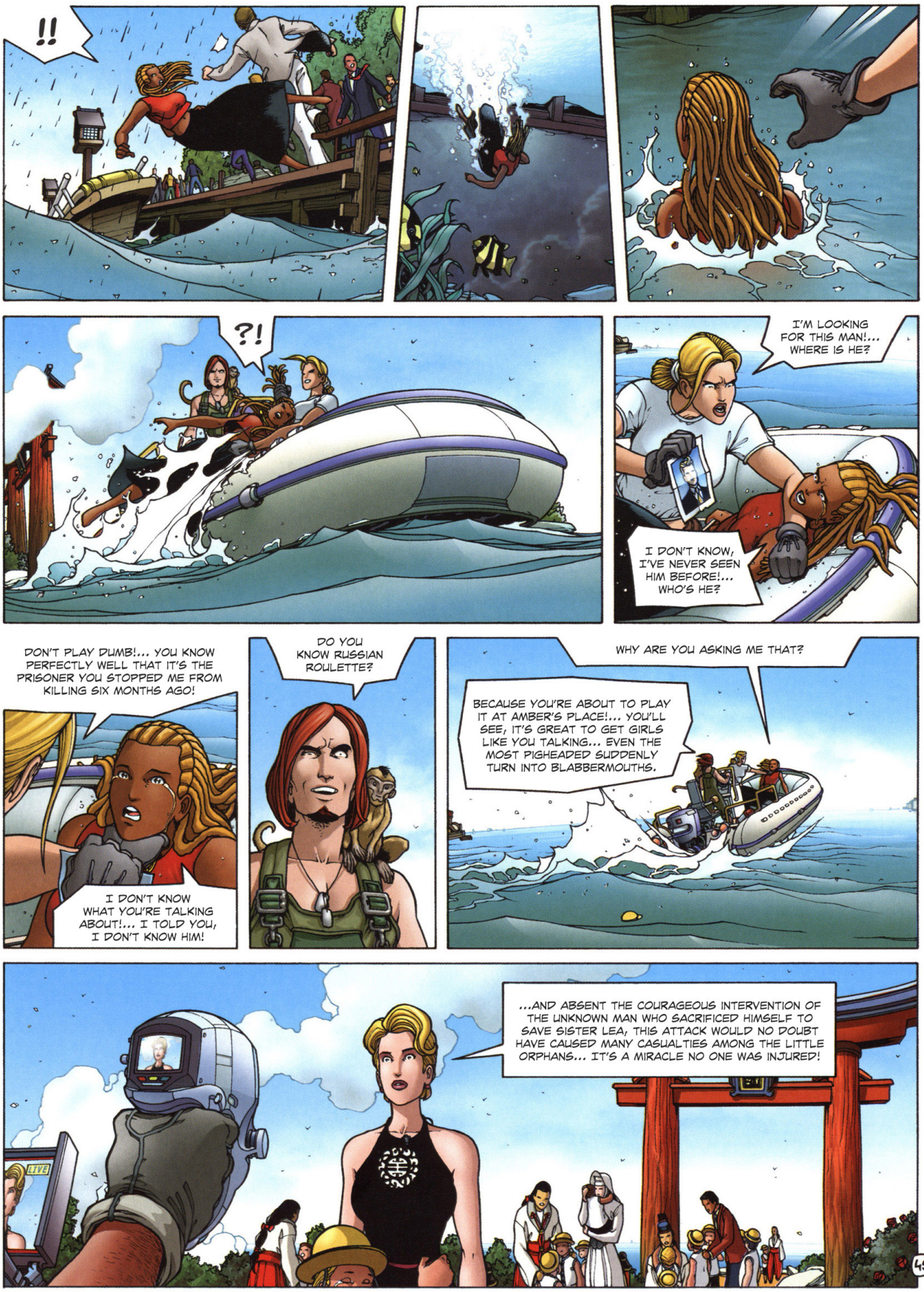


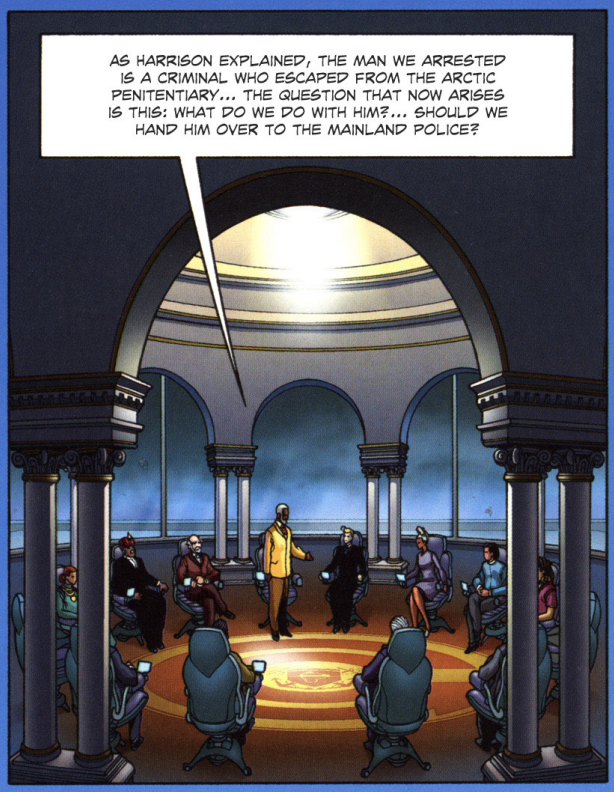
* ANYTHING ELSE?
** THAT WILL BE ALL, THANKS.

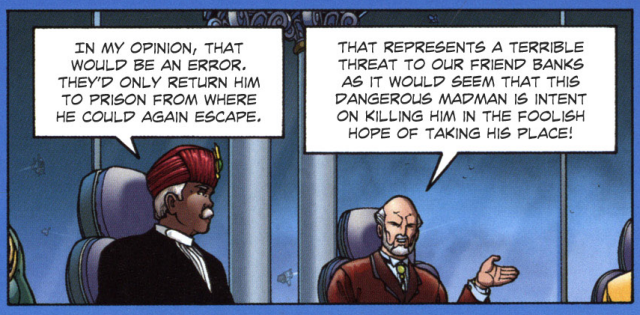
?!
NICELY DONE!... WE'LL BE GONE BY THE TIME THEY RE-COVER!
LOOK OUT!
SPIDER 1$
SNAKE 2$
ANIMALS
?!
5
ONE WAY
ANIMALS

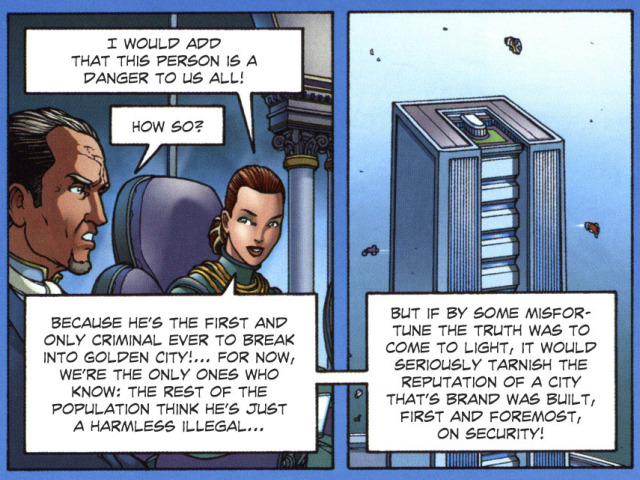
BRAVO!... BRAVO!... BRAVO!...
GRIFFITH?!... B... BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
WHERE'S THE KID WHO'S CARRYING THE BOMB FOR SISTER LEA?
?
WHAT KID?... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
OVER THERE!
YES.
THE ONE WITH THE BRAIDS?
THERE'S NO POINT DENYING IT, I KNOW EVERYTHING!... WHERE IS SHE?


CALL HER, QUICKLY!... TELL HER TO COME BACK HERE!
SHE WON'T LISTEN!
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE THAT GIRL IS, IN REALITY, A CLONE THAT PROFESSOR SEED CONDITIONED TO CARRY OUT THIS ATTACK... NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN STOP HER NOW!
AND IT'S TOO LATE TO INTERVENE IN ANY CASE, BECAUSE THE BOMB SHE'S CARRYING IS SET TO EXPLODE AT 14H!
MISS...
IT'S A GIFT FOR YOU.
OH! THANKS, SWEETIE, YOU'RE SO KIND!... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NO!... DON'T TOUCH THAT, SISTER LEA!
?!
44


!!
?!
I'M LOOKING FOR THIS MAN!... WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!... WHO'S HE?
DON'T PLAY DUMB!... YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT IT'S THE PRISONER YOU STOPPED ME FROM KILLING SIX MONTHS AGO!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!... I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW HIM!
DO YOU KNOW RUSSIAN ROULETTE?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO PLAY IT AT AMBER'S PLACE!... YOU'LL SEE, IT'S GREAT TO GET GIRLS LIKE YOU TALKING... EVEN THE MOST PIGHEADED SUDDENLY TURN INTO BLABBERMOUTHS.
...AND ABSENT THE COURAGEOUS INTERVENTION OF THE UNKNOWN MAN WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE SISTER LEA, THIS ATTACK WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE CAUSED MANY CASUALTIES AMONG THE LITTLE ORPHANS... IT'S A MIRACLE NO ONE WAS INJURED!
LIVE

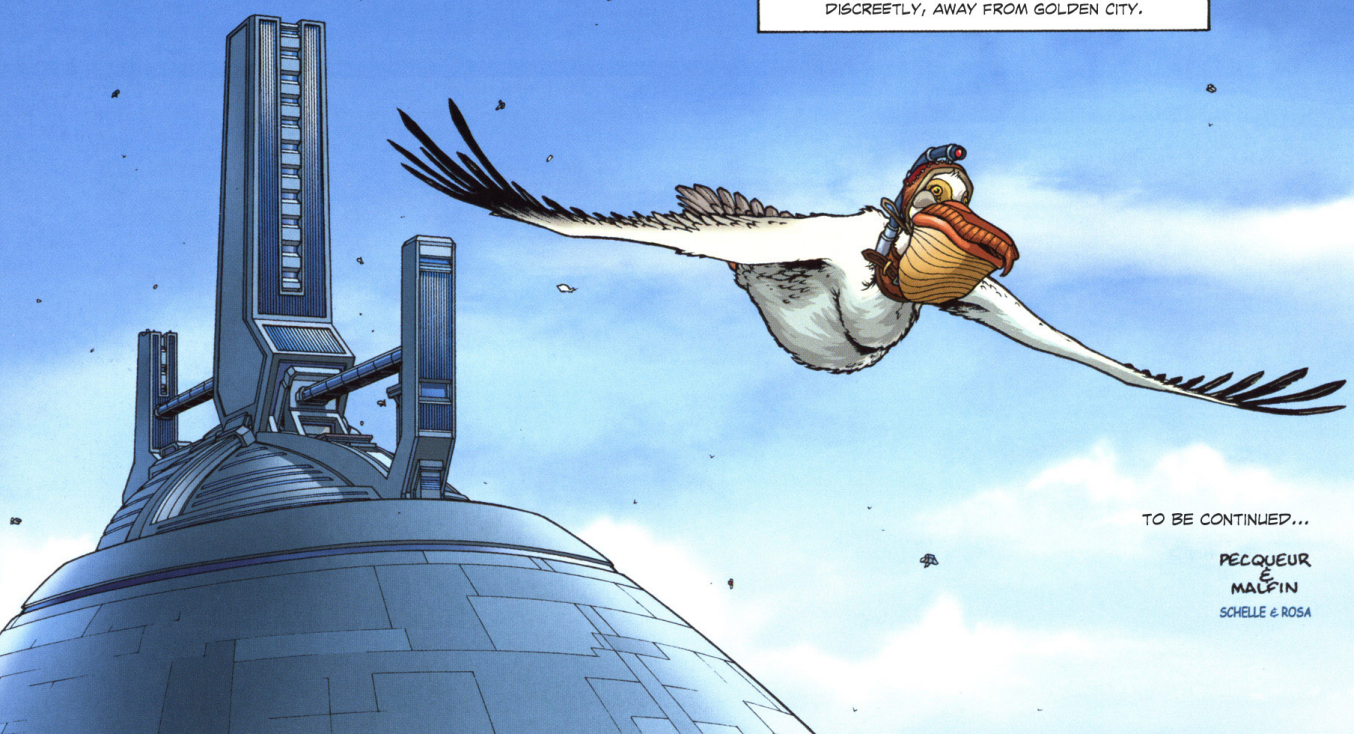

AS HARRISON EXPLAINED, THE MAN WE ARRESTED IS A CRIMINAL WHO ESCAPED FROM THE ARCTIC PENITENTIARY... THE QUESTION THAT NOW ARISES IS THIS: WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?... SHOULD WE HAND HIM OVER TO THE MAINLAND POLICE?


IN MY OPINION, THAT WOULD BE AN ERROR. THEY'D ONLY RETURN HIM TO PRISON FROM WHERE HE COULD AGAIN ESCAPE.
THAT REPRESENTS A TERRIBLE THREAT TO OUR FRIEND BANKS AS IT WOULD SEEM THAT THIS DANGEROUS MADMAN IS INTENT ON KILLING HIM IN THE FOOLISH HOPE OF TAKING HIS PLACE!


I WOULD ADD THAT THIS PERSON IS A DANGER TO US ALL!
HOW SO?
BECAUSE HE'S THE FIRST AND ONLY CRIMINAL EVER TO BREAK INTO GOLDEN CITY!... FOR NOW, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW: THE REST OF THE POPULATION THINK HE'S JUST A HARMLESS ILLEGAL...
BUT IF BY SOME MISFORTUNE THE TRUTH WAS TO COME TO LIGHT, IT WOULD SERIOUSLY TARNISH THE REPUTATION OF A CITY THAT'S BRAND WAS BUILT, FIRST AND FOREMOST, ON SECURITY!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!... PROTECTING OUR INVESTMENT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS!
YES!... WE SHOULD SETTLE THIS MATTER OURSELVES, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE NEWS GETS OUT!

VERY WELL... I'LL GIVE THE ORDER FOR THE PRISONER TO BE EXECUTED TONIGHT, DISCREETLY, AWAY FROM GOLDEN CITY.



TO BE CONTINUED...

PECQUEUR & MALFIN

SCHELLE & ROSA

Genre
Adventure

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THE CHARACTERS

BANKS: The director of one of the most powerful pharmaceutical companies in the world, and husband to Jessica. Grew up in Golden City, an exclusive floating metropolis reserved only for the rich.

MIFA, APPLE, SOLO and KUMIKO: Orphans who were thrown out onto the streets. They've become a family, and live as Wreckers, plundering wrecks in the ocean depths.

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THE STORY

Finally, the big day has arrived! Six months after the events that made him an exile, Harrison Banks has returned to Golden City. And it's in the bowels of this unique city that the real President of the Banks Group will finally learn the dark secret that his mother left him as inheritance.